



ISSUE 37

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Dirty Tricks of the Trade Confessions of a Writeholic

Z. P. Florian

Writing is a pleasure. Inspiration sometimes hits you suddenly. A story is all done in your head; all you do is type like crazy. But sometimes it's just a fragment of a dialogue that you hear in your head, a flickering vision of a Corellian smuggler turning the corner. And sometimes you just sit and stare at the keyboard. You want to write. You'd love to -- and nothing comes. People have asked me a few times, how can I write so much. I think it's time I confessed.

Search for the firsts: First love, first sex, first wound, first spaceflight, first murder, first arrest, first friendship, first child, first quarrel, first meeting (endless possibilities: first meeting of Han with Boba Fett, Jabba, Greedo, use any name from the movies...), Luke's first rain, Han's first sandstorm or his first encounter with the Sarlacc, or his first day on Tatooine.

The day before, the day after: Where was Han before he appeared at the cantina? What did Luke do after the medal ceremony? Use your own stories: continue one or do a prequel. Okay, you had Han and Leia walking off into the sunset, but before they got to the end of the rainbow, whammo ... Han's first wife appeared with a rolling pin. Whatever.

Childhood: Everybody's childhood is good for at least two stories. Chilling little clues for the future to come are worth five pages. Vader having strange feelings looking at the toddler in Bail Organa's house?

Plot: What can go wrong? In a good plot, something goes wrong and this is where the excitement comes in. Things going wrong are good for a short story even if you don't have a plot to begin with. Han is repairing the *Falcon*: what can go wrong? Everything. Luke uses the Force: what can go wrong? Hmm, Jedi mind-tricks definitely could backfire. Flood, water shortage, magnetic storms, epidemics, civil war, religious war, crime war, Imperial crackdown on smugglers?

If you have a story, is it as good as it can be? Could it be better if you tell it in first person singular? Who should be that person? One of the main characters or a passing stranger? Can it be trimmed? Another form, maybe, a script instead of a straight story? More dialogue? Less dialogue? Another character introduced? Would it help if it was winter instead of summer? Pouring rain?

Sound, smell, color, touch: Run through the story and see if your characters made good use of their

senses. Alien environments demand good descriptions, the reader wants the whole experience. The environment is a vital part of the story, whether it is nature on a planet, or high-tech ship quarters. Don't be afraid to show your characters as fully human: they should eat, sleep, change clothes, wash, maybe even go to the bathroom.

Overcoming writer's block: Watch the movies again, look for characters you've always ignored. Search your feelings, take your worst experience, your deepest embarrassment, your wildest desires and check if any of the SW characters could be put in the same jam. Shamelessly read romance novels, mysteries or SF, and of course SW zines, to see if there is an idea worth adopting. I don't mean plagiarism, of course. It's more like, "Hey, my Han wouldn't do that!" or "Hmm, this might happen in a space battle as well..."

Ethnic habits: Another gold mine. Corellian funeral services? Alderaani marriage rules? Huttese style revenge? Who are the Bothans? Does Ackbar swim? Tatooine school systems? Wookiee health care? Mos Eisley work permits? Bespin city cleaners (yeah, who found the severed hand?)

Invent a character: Who taught Han to play sabacc? Must have been quite a guy. Were they

friends? If yes, what had happened to the guy? How did the Rebel pilots react to a farmboy flying dangerous missions all of a sudden? Did Luke make a friend there? An enemy? Who taught Luke to write? Who was Tarkin's wife? What if Vader had a brother? A friend? A lover? Could someone survive Alderaan's destruction? Who rescued Vader after the first DS blowup? Did Lando have a wife? Boba Fett a mommy?

Just write: Okay, you can't think of anything. Zero, zilch, nil, nothing. Vague ideas swirl around your head. You feel incompetent, scared and lonely. You think you'll never be able to write again. Sit down and start writing. Write nothing special, just start with something like Luke getting up in the morning. Keep writing about where he slept. You know, room, table, blanket, room temperature. Okay, still nothing? Let him get out of bed, wash, dress -- just write. On the fifth page, something is bound to happen.

Use music: Put on a CD. SW music or the Batman suite always works for me. While the sound envelops you, start doing the "just write" and let the music lead you.

I hope I helped.

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Submissions received later than seven (7) days after deadline will not be published in the current issue.

The State of the Union

The Unifying Star Wars Fandom Panel Presented at MediaWest*Con 13

Transcribed and Edited by Cheree Cargill

(Panelists: Cheree Cargill, Ming Wathne, and Judith Yuenger)
(Audience participants will be named if known)

CC: This is a continuation or rerun from last year. As many of you know, about three years ago we began the effort to unify *Star Wars* fandom. We were broken up into multitudes of little groups with no one speaking to each other and no one knowing what was going on with anybody else and this gave rise to the rumor that *Star Wars* fandom was dead. And I said, I don't believe so because I know there are a lot of people out there. They're just not talking to each other. We began to get together and I think we've been pretty successful. Last year we were told that *Star Wars* was the largest organized fan group at MediaWest. [Applause.] And from the flyers I have seen stuck around on all the walls, I think we're a pretty active group this year.

Tina Bentrup:

Does anyone know exactly or approximately how many *Star Wars* fans are here?

CC: I don't know that anyone has ever made a count.

Laura Bolling:

The Forces of the Empire group and the Blaster Battle group make up, I'd say, close to 180, but there's not that many battling actually, but, you know, standing around watching.

CC: I think the FOE group is probably the largest organized group. The rest of the sub-groups are not quite so organized but, putting us all together, we're a respectable group of fans.

MW: That's the basis behind all of it, the fact that we *are* intercommunicating. You know, just talking to the same ones every week and not even recognizing that there's a whole lot of people out there that are basically starting to come together. Now we are interacting with people in Europe. We are interacting with people in Australia. We even have a little fan group in Japan, that was completely uncontacted three years ago.

CC: Melanie Guttierrez in New Orleans has contact with a group of Russian fans. Until the fall of the Communist government a couple of years ago, *Star Wars* had never been shown in Russia because it was capitalistic propaganda. As soon as it was shown, of course, people immediately gravitated to it and so these fans are brand spanking new and having a great time.

Aud: Is there a *Star Wars* list on the Internet?

CC: I don't know.

Aud: We should have one.

Aud2: George is on Amiga.

JY: It's on GENie. I know that.

Aud.: I know there's a GENie one, but I can't get to GENie. I'm only on Internet.

MW: Okay, this is one problem we have right here. There are a lot of people who aren't on



Cheree Cargill

Unifying SW Fandom Panel
Ming Wathne, Judith Yuenger, Cheree Cargill

GENie. There's a lot of people who do not have computers. There's a lot of people who still use a pen and paper to write. [Applause.]

JY: You have a computer.

MW: Yeah, but the fact is that I also have someone to come and fix the damn thing everytime something goes wrong... But what we need and are trying to do is get two or three people -- Cheree, myself, this lovely lady here [indicates Judith] -- with a centralized address where people can write and say, "Well, I've heard something about *Star Wars* but--" because I might as well live on Mars for a lot of the information I get, if I don't personally go to the phone and say, hey, what have you heard lately? And I live in California two hours from Hollywood.

Aud: We need a [Star Trek] Welcommittee.

MW: Yes, something similar.

JY: Pat Grant named it the *Star Wars* Fandom File and when she dropped it because she didn't get a lot of response, I picked it up.

Ann Birnstiel:

We need something like the *Star Trek* Welcommittee.

MW: Very similar.

JY: I've had some people write and want to know what clubs are available and what zines are available and, you know, all kinds of stuff, but the problem is that I'm not really set up yet to start advertising it. And that's what I want to do. And start putting an ad in *Starlog* or stuff like that where people can say, "Oh, look, there *are* other people out there."

MW: It's an incredibly diverse program, for one thing, and the difficulty is, if you're not in a mainstream town, finding out what's going on is surprising. The Library now is going into its fourth year. It's surprising the number of people who say, "Oh, I never even heard of you."

Maggie Nowakowska:

We need to work on some of the language. One angle we tend to say, "Well, this is *Star Wars* fandom or *this is Star Wars* fandom" because, I know on GENie, they do lots of



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stories there that have nothing to do with *our* end of telling stories and I hope that when we get into this we will recognize that there are going to be extremes of fandom who will never really interact.

MW: Correct.

MNow: There's only so much energy.

Z. P. Florian:

On Prodigy there's a huge *Star Wars* role-playing thing going on.

MW: At least have them understand there *are* other people out there who are people interested in *Star Wars* but not necessarily this particular part of it.

JY: You can take this room for instance. How many people in this room who are *not* Forces of the Empire ever knew that there was such a club? I mean, *I* didn't when I came here. I'd never heard of it. I said, where did this come from? You know, this is another thing is that's not out in the open much.

MNow: Yeah, the word FOE now has new meaning. And there is a Jedi club out in California. The Library's got a lot of their stuff and they were very happy and they did a lot of good works and everything.

MW: But one problem with them is that they are *this* [indicates small] and they are not reaching out. They say, well, we do have people overseas. That's true but they never contact them. I hear from them. They say, are they still there and what not.

MNow: There's no point in that. I really would like to encourage everybody to look up the addresses in *Southern Enclave* and, if you have any interest at all, write to some of these people so they'll know. I recently got a phone call from Craig Smith, who was going to Australia for a con and he was telling me that, oh, the big word in *Star Wars* fandom in England is this and that and it's stuff that we hashed over so many times. But nobody's talking to them. So

for them it's still big stuff. And I said, no, not this and, yes, this, and he went on happily, but he shouldn't be that isolated.

JY: In Germany, there's a huge, huge *Star Wars* fan club. They have over 500 members. They put out a newsletter and I gave it to Ming because it's in German and I'm sorry I don't read German, but it's about that thick [1/2"] and it's digest-sized. They put that out every other month. And they're dying for information, and they write me and say, "What's going on with the Americans?" and when they found out about the Star Awards, they wanted to know if they could put their zine up for nomination. And I said, "Well, wait a minute. I don't know how many people in America have ever read it and they're the ones that vote." But they want to vote. So, I may start one up for Europe-- Oh, no, what am I saying!

Aud: [Laughter, applause]

CC: Open mouth, insert foot.

MW: That's exactly what's happening. I'm in contact with an English club that is spreading out to get more people. I have contact with two English editors that want me to print their zines here in the States. They feel that way they get the zines out to people that like to read them and that can vote for the Star Awards.

MNow: And local postage.

Marti Schuller:

Catriona Campbell has lost her mind and is going to try to do a trans-Atlantic type of zine. She wants to incorporate some European, which right now is all the guys doing the battles and strategies, the technical side, and the American is more into the characterization. She's hoping to incorporate the two and have a trans-Atlantic style zine. It's called *I Have a Bad Feeling About This*. [Laughter.]

MW: Catriona is one of those that has contacted me.

CC: Isn't Louise Turner is the other one?

MW: That's the other one.

MSch: And they're trying to get the English, Scottish, Welsh mixture with the Americans side so they can all vote.

MNow: The computers are going to help that an awful lot. Internet and all.

MW: Except that neither one of those girls knows how to use a computer. And that's just what I was talking about.

MNow: They don't have to start incorporating computers.

CC: I think the computer networks are going to be, maybe not a competition but a supplement to fandom. I know that it's been a big help to me since I've been on GENie. Because if I need questions answered or like when Nora and I were setting up the room arrangement, we could go back and forth and not have to wait for the mail to cross. We could basically talk to each other real-time and I found that a big help as far as information is concerned. It is very wide spread and I know not everyone has a computer but perhaps these people could be like fire wardens. The word goes out to them and they get on the phone and call their friends and spread the word.

MNow: That's what we need. Some communication because of things like that.

Eric Larson:

What may help is if we could get a list of who has a computer and what systems they're on. Get handed out because everyone's going to start knowing it.

Z.P.: People who have a computer and can be reached through e-mail to whichever service. And also it would help whoever is in the same area code without any extra charge and that would expand communications.

MW: Well, that's exactly what we keep pressing the

idea of communication. Somebody else who can contact somebody else, to get the whole group together. Whether or not they have a computer or whether they still write with pad and paper.

Joyce Yasner:

I've noticed Forces of the Empire has been around MediaWest*Con for years. I'm not real sure what all the group is, what you people do. I mean, I write. I know Maggie writes, Pat Nussman writes and many others are doing this type of thing and for years that's what kept *Star Wars* fandom going, was people wrote and published them in zines. Now, what does Forces of the Empire do? What is the point of-- What do these clubs do?

CC: Each group has their own function. Forces of the Empire is basically a role playing group. The *Southern Enclave* group, I think, is more interested in fanzines and publishing and things like that.

LBoll: They actually do have a zine. *Tales from the Cantina*.

Aud: Yeah, that's role-playing one.

MNow: What is the place of role playing these days? It is very big in Europe. It is a major part of the cons. Everybody participates. Whether you write or draw, you also do role-playing. And I know the fans in Italy were very concerned that they didn't know how American fans feel about role playing. And I couldn't tell them because I don't role play.

JYas: I have a friend who is one of the contract people at Berkley Books. She says they're not publishing as much science fiction as they used to because people play games on computer. There's not as many people reading science fiction at Berkley. They're not reading science fiction, they're busy playing computer games.

Tina: Listen, I'm a librarian. I read *Publisher's Weekly's* books. And there has definitely been a drop in the number of sf novels released in the last three years.

JY: That's not just science fiction. That's true for all books.

JYas: Okay, well, here's my question. I know I have an active imagination. I have a pet character I like to write about or think about in my stories and stuff like this. Now what do role playing people do? I can see, alright, everybody has their idea of who they are. They make up characters for themselves and that's who they are. Okay, I understand that. I do that, too. But I don't understand how you guys can possibly reconcile fifteen different versions of the Universe and have your blaster battle and your role playing game.

LBoll: I can answer some of those questions. Last year I decided, okay, what costume do I want to wear in the blaster battle? Well, I'd just seen *Terminator 2* and I thought, oh, I'll be Sarah. So I went out and bought all black and got the wig and everything and I did Sarah last year, which came in handy because the Imperials decided to use all the bomb gadgets. Well, Sarah, with her demolition skills, she could dismantle them and the rebels didn't have to worry about them. And, more or less, you can take a character out of a movie and you can utilize their skills that they have that are special. Like Luke being a Jedi. Sarah being a demolitions expert. Any kind of science fiction movie or a character from any movie. Or you can make a character up.

JYas: How do you know if you came across "Imperial bomb thing" anyway? I mean, I'm in the corridor? How would I know if I came upon a bomb thing?

LBoll: Because of a sticker that had a Imperial symbol on it.

JYas: And what do you do when you find one of these things?

LBoll: Well, it has a coded range on it and the skill of the person who put it there. If my skills matched it or was higher, I could deactivate it.

JYas: And then what happens? Who says who has

higher skill levels?

LBoll: Well, if you have a question, then we have a third faction that are judges. And you get a judge and the judge checks your stats on the back of your card. This card we have has your stats on the back of them like in D&D game.

MW: There are a lot of people out there who can explain it with you *after* we're finished with this, okay?

Aud: There is a group, a fairly large group, that has reportedly broken off of different sections of *Star Trek* interactive fiction. You have a group with organizers and then that group is broken up into shifts which are basically a coordinator or captain that comes up with the stories for this cycle.

MW: That's probably something we could find out with this intercommunication. I know I've used that word so many times that you're damn tired of hearing it, but it's very important if we're to keep *Star Wars* fandom alive. Because there's a hell of a lot of us out there. We just don't talk to one another.

CC: I think it's kind of a misnomer about "unifying" fandom. We're not trying to make everyone do the same thing the same way. It's more of an alliance. (laughter)

Tina: This is a real basic question. I don't own a computer. I would love to get one. But how, basically, does a network work?

CC: Now, I don't know exactly how it works, because I'm not a technician, but it's like the telephone company computer -- and this is a broad analysis -- the GENie computer and the Prodigy computer are in a central location *somewhere* out in the netherlands, I don't know. The telephone lines go into it, basically like you're making a phone call.

JY: Only you're typing.

CC: Yeah, on the computer. They work on the same basic principle. It's broken down into an

- electronic analog signals and then the computer stores the digital information under a code. The person on the other end can call up that code, if you're sending it directly to them, under their password or their code name, it goes into their computer and comes up on the screen.
- JY: It's electronic mail. Through the phone. You know, she reads her mail and there's a letter from "J.Yuenger" and then she can call it up and she can read what I wrote.
- Tina: Do you have like a telephone hookup with your modem?
- JY: Yes.
- CC: You have to have a modem on your computer. Because the modem is what breaks it down into digital information and it goes through the phone lines. It goes into the computer and the modem reconverts it back into computer signals.
- Tim Blas: I have a copy of a magazine I'd like to show to everybody. It's the first professionally done issue of *Report from the Star Wars Generation*.
- CC: Is it for sale in the dealer's room?
- Tim: No, that's my copy. I had to order it through the mail. [Brings it up to panel table and it is shown to audience]
- CC: I love their headline. "Is Luke Skywalker Jesus?"
- [Tim takes magazine and opens it to appropriate article, entitled "Jesus Christ Super Star Wars." It is shown it to audience amid howls of laughter.]
- LBoll: I have a friend who teaches a course in comparative religions and one of the sections is the religious connotations in *Star Wars*.
- CC: [Reads address] Hi-Drive Publications, Box 23, 2300 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. *Report from the Star Wars Generation*.
- JY: \$12.00 for four issues.
- CC: I like what it says here. "Xerox this coupon and don't ruin your cool magazine."
- JY: There are so many people in this room -- including me -- who didn't know that was coming out. You know, when we communicate with people and show it to everybody and that's what we need more of.
- Eric: Just a couple of questions. The Lucasfilm Fan Club, you know, has been off and on again, but does anyone know what's going with it?
- MW: First of all, let's forget about the idea that Lucasfilm is for fan information. What it is is a sales magazine. It's 98% sales magazine and 2% information. The so-called "large" Lucas interview on *Star Wars* contained exactly two paragraphs on *Star Wars*. The other pages were anything he was doing otherwise and what he had to sell. I get it all the time for the Library.
- Eric: The other thing was, I live in Manhattan, which is a very, very big city, but besides that, I mean, just last month meeting Joyce [Yasner] again after a while, I didn't really know there were so many people around and, even in a large city like that, I felt sort of isolated and I think of people in Chicago, Atlanta and L.A., which are all big cities, but we're also sort of stuck in our own little cosmopolitan, so I can understand why, if you live in Bohunk, Ohio, it can be really hard to get anything. We get stuff like this in our stores but, even for us, we have to try to hunt this out. It's in the city somewhere but, my God, you have to go to 20 different stores.
- MW: The address for Library and Cheree is one of the main stays in *Star Wars*. There is an address. If you hear about something, take a post card -- you don't have to write a 5 page letter. Take a post card and say, "Have you heard of this? This coming out." That's all.
- CC: If you hear of something, send it in to *Southern Enclave*. I'm like Eric. I mean, I

live in Dallas which is a humongous city, but, as far as I know, I'm the only living *Star Wars* fan in Dallas. And I don't hear anything unless people send it to me.

Eric: It's rough. I mean, it's not as if we aren't trying, it's that's the stuff like these magazines come to specialty stores and a lot of times we don't hear of it basically because the publishers never even tell us it's coming out. They're small press, sometimes smaller than zines, I think, and nothing is said and sometimes there's information in there that we know nothing about. I work in advertising. I found out that I work for the guy who did the original *Star Wars* posters and I have the original concepts of some of them, with Luke and Vader's hands crossing in front of the Death Star. Lots of stuff. I'm willing to share with people. Send it out and clean it up, if you want to see it, but a lot of this stuff has never been seen before and now I finally have it. There's a lot of stuff out there.

MW: Well, this is it. If you have something special like that, let us know. Cheree will try to get this information out. I try to get the information out.

LBoll: I don't know how many people read the July issue of *Starlog*. I opened it to the first page and my mouth sort of dropped because there's a gorgeous plate they're offering for the 15th anniversary. And, I don't know if --

Aud: It's been out for a year.

LBoll: Well, I had never seen it.

MW: I sent my money. I'd better get it!

Eric: Well, even with the new collector's cards, at least it's something that's still to come.

Aud: Aren't they about \$75.00 a set?

Eric: A box is \$35.00. If you wanted them and were a collector and wanted to get the hologram card, and there's only like 3 or 4 boxes, then you have to buy those 6 boxes in order to get

the hologram. It's better to save up and buy them for \$10.00 a crack later on if you really want to collect them. They're nothing more than art.

Tim: About the cards... I would have had some to show you right now, except the comic book store that I deal with decided to go back on their promise to sell them to me at wholesale, and, what I have seen of them, they're full color and gorgeous and what's on the back is not just the art, and they're awesome. But I hate the chase cards -- the ones that are deliberately rare.

Aud: Well, I have a question about the comic book series coming out right now. Does anybody know if that's going to be collected and put together in hardbound for those of us how have no access to a comic book store?

Eric: The six volumes? Yes, they are putting it out. They are putting it out with new art at the end of it so you can see how they designed the series. Does anybody know about all the ones that Archie Goodwin and Al Williamson put out, the three volume set? There is also, again, Lucasfilm didn't carry through. There are all these other cartoons we've never seen, yesterday, where they're from Malaysia and everything, that we've seen. I have some of them but they're incomplete. Very incomplete. But they're gorgeous. The guy I know got them from a Malaysian paper. They were the only one that got them. And some are in full color. Some of these really beautiful panels I've collected and I'm willing to make color xeroxes for people who want them, but, I need filler. You know, someone else may have like Frames 8-12 or something, we don't have all of them.

MW: Well, this is the way you can find out. We get a centralized address. Say, "I need blah blah blah." "I need the left foot of..."

Aud: I have a question about the movies. I heard a rumor. Is it true he's going to go back and do movies on the Clone Wars in these? Or is that a rumor?

MNow: He said they are in preproduction. They said in *Publisher's Weekly*, the only movies they are going to do are the prequels. Everything afterwards is going to come out in book form.

Aud: I heard the prequels and then maybe...

MNow: Well, the man was 50 years old last year. And he's got diabetes. So, let's hope for the next three and then worry.

Z.P.: He's going to film the three movies at one time.

MNow: He talks about it.

Eric: It said that on the Prodigy network, like *Back to the Future*.

MNow: It was an idea they were exploring in the field at the time and he's on the cutting edge of doing a lot of these things. He's going to come up with a lot of ideas and say "do it" and then two months later he's going to find out ... he can't.

Eric: Or, he can. I mean, I heard, too, *Jurassic Park* is going to be a big ... what we can expect out of a new *Star Wars* show. The new technology they're using now is a springboard.

LBoll: I'd like to mention something I heard about that, oh, I don't know how big these dinosaurs are supposed to be, as far as being full scale, but they said, throughout the whole filming, they didn't fail once. They didn't have one technical difficulty, so these must be so much beyond Disney's third stage or fourth stage or animatronics, that maybe we'll be real wow!

CC: I read an article on them in *National Geographic* a few months ago. They did a dinosaur article and mentioned them. And they said this is probably as close as we'll ever get to live dinosaurs.

LBoll: And also they give us a peek at George's latest new technology with what he claims that he's been working on for the gap in time that we've been waiting.

Z.P.: You may all have to laugh at me, but I don't understand why it's taking new technology. Whatever he had, it seemed to work with whatever technology he had at the time, and they were awesome

CC: I think you have to look at the cost of it. The new technology will keep the cost down. The process of getting there ... and it's cheaper, too.

MNow: And this is his field. He loves it. He wants to be the cutting edge. And look at the hobbies we have. Are we going to stick to colored paper when we can get mylar if that's going to make our stuff look nicer? No, we're not. We're going to go for mylar.

LBoll: Something else to consider about the long wait we've had is that George now has enough technology built on Skywalker Ranch that they will not have to leave Skywalker Ranch to work on the projects.

Eric: Has anyone heard that he built a soundstage, a big soundstage? With these new films coming out, of course, the old rumors we all heard, but through little pockets. I think we need to like start hearing this stuff faster so that those of us who want to know what happens... The only other thing I've heard is Kodak is coming out with some new type of film that's going to help matte process. So it can speed up and cut the costs. I don't think Lucas is so concerned about winning Academy Awards or Best Picture, as he is to winning, not only special effects, but technical achievement, and then he seems to beam. When he can win the award for cutting costs a third for coming up with a machine. He created a machine you could run film in, you know, in minus 30 degree weather. That was his idea. Now the Empireflex is used anywhere when you film in an arctic situation. And he's done a lot of work that you just don't think about.

LBoll: I specifically have, now everytime I go see a science fiction film or any kind of film, that has any kind of special effects, I stay after

and I watch to see what's being done. Skywalker Sound has been coming across on a lot of just your regular pictures now.

CC: Lucas has really changed how we watch movies in the last ten or fifteen years. Every big picture that you see, the first thing that comes across -- "THX Dolby."

MW: That's right.

Eric: When you think about it, without him, I don't think we would have the type of film we have today. There is no simple way. He really did change the way movies are made. For better or worse. Whatever you think...

CC: We demand better quality movies now.

MW: The situation is, he built the world's most entertaining sandbox, then he went away. He went away and he's coming back now. And in the meantime, we've been filling in the void. And the idea is to connect ourselves so that we can keep going.

Aud: Along with filling the void, I heard a rumor that after the Timothy Zahn books, there'll be other authors.

CC: Bantam has signed for 12 *Star Wars* books.

Eric: You know, what might also help, they obviously go with a lot of authors you don't always hear about, too. Maybe if we all start getting together and writing, we could get Brian Daley to write more books. We could say, "Why don't you try it again? We respect what you did how many years ago as compared to what's being done." And maybe we could get something decent out there. One letter equals, what is it, 180 people, is what they figure? 10,000 people want you to write more books.

CC: Kind of going back to something with respect to the computer network thing... There are a tremendous amount of people on the bulletin boards who don't know about fandom but are fans. When I was on Prodigy, I'd go in and

say, "Hey, are you guys *Star Wars* fans? Would you like to meet other fans? Would you like to see fanzines? You know, would you like to learn more about it?" And I'd say, "Write me at this address and tell me you saw this on Prodigy and I'll send you a free back copy of *Southern Enclave* to introduce you." And I got a fair amount of response, enough that I could tell people were reading it. And it brought several people into fandom. They'd say, "I've never seen a zine before and this is exactly what I'm looking for."

Aud: There's at least one person here who found out about MediaWest on a bulletin board.

CC: And that's something we all could do who are on-line, on all the different computer nets.

Marti: But you don't need a computer to do that. I have a comic book store I go to. I took zines to the comic store because I had been talking to him about *Star Wars* and I asked, "Are you familiar with zines?" and he said, "What?" So I took in several zines that I'd been in, my contributor's copies and his eyes bulged and the first thing he said is, "Can I get copies for the store?" and I said, "Well... I'm not sure about that."

MNow: Be careful about that, though. Remember, one reason we think we are covered is that we're non-profit.

Marti: Yeah, I told him, "No, you can't, but you can tell people that these exist." I tell him he can contact the editors.

Mnow: We have a cinema book store in Seattle and I've been doing that for about a year. Whenever someone comes in and says they want to know about *Star Wars*, they contact me, and I've gotten some neat free tickets.

MW: The question of making the most of our communication is the individual. One talks to another and then you've got five talking to five more, and that's how we get the build up. My God, look what happened last night with our little writer's conference. I thought we would

-
- have been lucky to have three people in there.
- CC: We tried it at Revelcon in Houston. We didn't know if anybody was going to show up, and we had about a dozen or more people, including Laura [Bolling].
- LBoll: Oh, by the way, I have something I meant to mention. I'm glad you said that. Kathy [Agel] has a new zine she's going to try to get out for next MediaWest called *Who's Scruffy*. It's a Han Solo zine.
- CC: *Who's Scruffy Looking?*
- LBoll: Oh, I thought it was just *Who's Scruffy*? Anyway, she's looking for contributions if anybody has a Han Solo story they need a home for, send it her way.
- CC: That's another aspect of how we have reunified over the last two or three years. If you were to count the *Star Wars* zines that were out there three years ago, you had the last issue of *Wookiee Commode* and *Tremor in the Force* and that was it. And now, you've got *Bright Center*, you've got *Another Sky*, you've got *Alliance and Empire*, you've got *Interim*, you've got --
- JY: *Imperium*.
- CC: *Imperium*. My brain is fried. That zine over there. [Points to Arwen who is holding up a copy.]
- MW: In the back of *Bright Center*, there are flyers, from about 6 or 7 other *Star Wars* zines and they are advertising again as they used to a few years ago.
- MSch: SE always has lots of information.
- MW: Yeah.
- CC: I try to advertise all of them.
- Eric: We should start sending ads to each others zines.
- CC: And also the circulation of *Southern Enclave* has gone up a quarter. I've had to bump up the number of copies I'm printing.
- Aud: How many?
- CC: It's hovered around 75 for the last two or three years and it's up now to nearly 100.
- Tim: We're not in the super high drive days like before.
- MW: No, and we never will be.
- CC: I know one thing. I'm getting more material than I can publish.
- MW: We're both now into two years from now in our getting stories.
- Tina: I'm not an eofan. I've been in this for about three years, but from what little I've seen of the old zines, I think the quality is getting better. I don't know if this is my imagination or not. I don't know. They're getting more sophisticated, more professional, and the quality of the printing and everything is just really...
- MNow: That's one of those areas we've argued for years because do we want the story out and cheap, or do we want it looking nice?
- CC: That's what people were saying three years ago. "Oh, I can't afford to do a zine." You don't have to have 300 page zines, or color covers, or foldouts, or sparks shooting out of it. Okay, that's what I'm doing because I've been at it for 20 years and that's what I've worked up to. But, it's not necessary. If you can type, xerox and staple, you can do a zine! If you can afford and have the talent and the energy and the drive to do--
- Arwen: And the caffiene.
- CC: --and the caffiene! Yeah! If you're a Type A personality with not enough to do -- then you can do these megazines like I'm doing, but it's not necessary.
-

Eric: A friend of mine put out a small, little zine. That's what I'm doing for a friend of mine right now. It's 61 pages. She had no money. She had a very small little Lisa Mac, a real old Mac. She sent it to me. A guy I work with formatted it for me. I laid it out and printed it up. And it's 25 little editions of it and it's the first time she's ever had anything out and it took me all of an hour to do it. You don't need a \$10,000 computer, but it's simple. Get ahold of friends. Someone's gonna have a friend with a friend and believe me it takes no time at all for these computers to do it.

CC: Computers are a God-send for editors. I mean, I don't know what I'd do without my computer, but the first two or three zines I ever did were typed on a \$10 Royal Electric with a broken space bar. It did not stop me from doing my zines.

Eric: We did 61 pages in four minutes. That text-flowed everything perfectly with a template.

Aud: One of the things I want to see -- maybe you do this in *Southern Enclave*? I've really never seen one of your issues.

CC: I've got them in the dealer's room.

JY: Commercial break!

Aud: I've got a fairly thin *Star Wars* zine collection. I just get to one *Star Wars* zine convention a year. But what I wanted to say was, there are some acknowledged series out there, like Pat Nussman's "Lady of the Rebellion" cycle. I would like to see some of those cycles put together. Collected in one volume.

CC: Some have been in the past. Ming can let you know what's available in the Library. I agree. I'd like to see some of the early classic stuff reprinted and that's an idea I've had for another zine. A classic reprint zine.

Tim: With new illos.

CC: Well, no. Maybe some, but some of the original illos are so classic with the stories that they should be reprinted too.

MW: The real problem in any case is contacting editors, contacting artists and writers. I have been on the trail of two or three authors for over three years, trying to get permission. It's not easy and it takes a lot of time.

Eric: A real quick plug. Joyce [Yasner] and I are going to be starting something. We're calling it *Tusken Farms*. The premise is basically what we did last night. We're going to pose a question until we can get as many people as we can. Everyone tries to answer. We spit it out with a new question and everybody sends it back in. Basically, it's going to be a round robin, what's your idea about, and it can be used for writers, or it can be used for just people who want to read it. We're going to try it here now.

CC: I would like to plug another little zine which is very small at the moment but I think it's got a lot of promise and that is *Crossfire Zone*. It's kind of a replacement for *Hibernation Sickness*. *Crossfire Zone* is from Melanie Gutierrez and Lorrie Cherry, who does *Another Sky...* The first issue was a classic because the cover was an Ewok pelt.



Real Life Strikes Back

My dear friends, this is a very painful editorial to have to write. Even as I type it, I can barely force myself to do so. But reality has blasted its ugly presence into my life and cannot be shoved aside or ignored this time.

As many of you already know, on October 13, 1993, my husband Randy was laid off from his job with Texas Instruments. He'd been there 17 years. He sort of knew it was coming because he barely missed getting hit two years ago, but we were living with the hope that he would continue to be bypassed. The thing we are most bitter about is that, in the end, he was reduced to a figure on a piece of paper and declared "surplus." Yep, that's the word they used. Never mind the money they had invested in him in training and continuing education, never mind the productivity awards he had won over the years, never mind the loyalty and grinding hard work he had done for them. In the end, he was simply a number and they just erased him.

Fortunately, as part of his severance package, he will be on full salary and benefits until the end of the year, so that's a help. Then, if he hasn't found a job by January, he can go on unemployment. And, thankfully, the insurance carrier at my job has a provision that will allow me to pick him and Katy up with no questions asked. This was one of our major worries because he is not in good health and takes a lot of maintenance medication daily. We were afraid that no one would cover him.

Another good thing is that, because Randy had seen the Grim Reaper heading his way two years ago, he was able to plan and work very hard to get us into as good financial shape as possible. We will be able to pay off the mortgage on our home in January, plus the disbursements and severance from his job should

enable us to pay many of our outstanding debts. Once those are out of the way, we'll be able to live okay on my salary -- I hope.

We're also fortunate that I have a pretty secure job with a dynamic mid-size lawfirm. I'm one of the PC experts around here and have just been informed me that they want me to be the system manager of the new computer network they will be installing this spring.

Now, how all this will impact my fannish activities, I don't yet know. I have decided to put SE on a (hopefully) short hiatus until things settle down. I will plan the next (and hopefully not last) issue for the spring, with the deadline being February 1, 1994. If you feel that you would like a refund on what remains on your subscription, then please SASE me and I will return the balance. However, it is my fervent hope that I can continue to do SE for a long time to come, but this break is necessary in order to devote the time I need to getting our lives back on track.

I am also proceeding tentatively with TF#8. FS#3 is still "go" because it is so near to being finished. It should be out in January. I don't know about MWC next year either. Randy says we should still plan to go but we'll see. Right now, things are too unsettled to make any decisions about anything. So, I would appreciate any good thoughts you could send my way. We're going to need it.

Meanwhile, please don't think that I have gaffiated. I have every intention of staying as active as I can. And, with your hopes and prayers and good thoughts added to ours, Randy will find a job soon and things will return to normal for us.

I love you all and your friendship is precious to me. Please stay in touch. I need your support more than ever now. God bless all of you.

CREW ROSTER

Martha "Marti" Schuller

Born: May 31, 1949, although mentally I fluctuate somewhere between sixteen and seventy. And, yes, I was a "flower child", although younger than most.

Married: October 9, 1969. Yep, the big silver is just around the corner. Two sons, Dennis II, age 22, and Steven, age 19.

Interests: I've been writing SW fanfic since 1986 when my first ever story appeared in *Wookiee Commode* #3. I'd been writing for myself since age 8, but discovered zines thanks largely to Janet Madden of Boston and Samia Martz, who I met at my first con in K.C. Unlike some fans, I didn't fall immediately in love with SW, but after seeing it once, I couldn't get the story out of my head. After seeing it a second time, I did fall madly, head-over-heels for it. From the start, Luke has been my fav character. As I've said before, in ANH, I wanted to mother him, in TESB, I wanted to be his best friend, and in ROTJ, I wanted to bed him. He's my fav because he is a survivor who survives with his humanity intact, without bitterness and with a sense of humor.

I've never written any other fandom and probably never will. SW is my one fan passion, although I'm interested in and enjoy a wide range of other films, TV shows and books.

My fav pro authors are Robert Ludlum, David Eddings, and yes, don't stone me, Tom Clancy. There are too many fan writers I greatly admire to attempt to name them.

My life's ambitions are to get my professional-effort novel published, to one day win a STAR aWARD, to win the lottery or similar large monetary contest, and to remain loyal to SW forever!

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BULLETIN BOARD

GET WELL SOON TO ...

Carolyn Golledge, who is undergoing surgery.

CLUBS

Forces of the Empire
c/o Pat Grant
2371 N. Aurelius, Apt. 12
Holt, MI 48842

The Moons of Yavin
19 Park Avenue
Bottesford, Scunthorpe
South Humberside DN17 2PB
England

PENPALS WANTED

Gerald Crotty
25 Woodridge
Birchfield, Birmingham 6
B6 - 6LN England

Yvette Ghilan
P. O. Box 1827
57112 Ramat Gan
Israel

ERRATA

FROM: Ann Wortham

Re: Kathy Hintze's death. She was at home right up until the end. Sheila Paulson, Barb Johnson and some other fans were with her at the hospital the day she died. I know she was happy they were there and that she got to be at home right up until the end. She was a wonderful, happy person. It's a great loss to fandom that she is gone.

FROM: Charyl Perry

I was on the Star Wars Echo bulletin board and thought I would send this interesting tidbit from Skip Shaytovitch:

'Got the cover to Kathy Tyers' upcoming SW book, *Truce at Bakura* (my preview copy is coming soon). Here's what it says on the cover slip:

'No sooner has Darth Vader's funeral pyre burned to ashes on Endor than the Alliance intercepts a call for help from a far-flung Imperial outpost. Bakura is on the edge of known space and first to meet the Sai-ruuk, cold-blooded reptilian invaders who, once allied with the now dead Emperor, are approaching Imperial space with only one goal: total domination. Princess Leia sees the mission as an opportunity to achieve a diplomatic victory for the Alliance. But it assumes even greater importance when a vision of Obi-Wan Kenobi appears to Luke Skywalker with the message that he *must* go to Bakura -- or risk losing everything the Rebels fought so desperately to achieve.

'Even as the Alliance arrives, the aliens have almost overcome the Bakura Imperial garrison, whose desperate commander will accept help from any quarter -- even Rebel -- against an insidious foe that enslaves human minds to pilot their invincible machines of war and destruction.

'While marshaling the tattered Imperial forces, Luke, Han Solo, and Princess Leia must win the trust and cooperation of the Bakurans. For although Imperial Governor Nereus has granted the Rebels temporary amnesty, there is the possibility of treachery among those whose first allegiance lies with the Empire.

'In the eve of the final explosive onslaught, Rebel and Imperial forces must finally come to terms with each other ... or lose the entire galaxy to the hideous servitude promised by a victorious alien enemy.'

'The cover artwork is done by Drew Struzan ... and is *absolutely incredible!* Picture the faces of Luke, Han and Leia underneath a black, gloved hand (looks like Vader's to be honest)

and Leia's head shaking. The back has the ghostly image of Ben in his Tatooine garb. Also a few x-wings and the Falcon soaring through space ... all in reddish/brown hue. *Super cover!"*

and Warlords), *Wookiee Commode #2, Xanadu*. [Misc.] Zine sales, zines wanted, costumes made, bumper stickers, soliticing donations for star on Walk of Fame for Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill Society-U.K., ROTJ pens, VHF song tapes.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY...

Southern Enclave #5, September, 1984. 56 pages, reduced.

Articles Etc.: "In this Corner..." by Marcia Brin. A look at Anakin Skywalker/Darth Vader at the end of the Saga and Kenobi's role in his fall. Review of *Outland Chronicles #2* by Sandra Necchi. The Church of Ford/Cathedral of Luke War was at fever pitch and Chereeran an editorial announcing that if things didn't tone down immediately, SE#6 would be the last issue.

LoCers: Elsie Bartok, Martie Benedict, Terri Black, Tim Blaes, Sonia Blodgett, Barbara Brayton, Marcia Brin, Danaline Bryant, Bev Clark, Melody Corbett, Patricia D'Orazio, Karen Finch, Debbie Gilbert, Jeanine Hennig, Barbara Izzo, Marlene Karkoska, P. J. LaVasseur, Michelle Malkin, Sandra Necchi, Maggie Nowakowska, Carole Regine, Sally Smith, Kerri Smithline, Jean L. Stevenson, Shelley Swan, Sally Syrjala, Barbara Tennison, Mary Urhausen, Laura Virgil, Ann Wortham.

Art by: Danaline Bryant, Cheree Cargill, Karen Finch, Carol Peters, Lynne Whitten, Laura Virgil.

Zine for Sale: [Available] *A Tremor in the Force #1*, *Contraband #2*, *Deceptive Journey*, *Errantry #2*, *Fantasy #1*, *Far Realms #6*, *Field Studies #1*, *Flip of a Coin 1-3*, *Green Harvest*, *Guardian #6*, *Harrison Ford Fun Book*, *Jedistardarkfalconknight*, *Kessel Run #3-4*, *Melange #2-3*, *On the Mark*, *Outland Chronicles #1-2*, *Scoundrel*, *Shooting Star #1*, *Skywalker #5*, *The Old Republic Reader*, *Universal Translator*, *VHF-The Complete Book of Lyrics*, *Well of the Souls #4*. [Coming Soon] *A Tremor in the Force #2*, *The Baron of Bospin*, *Circle of Light*, *Collected Circle of Fire*, *Field Studies #2*, *Knight's Lady -- or the Steed's Tale (Knight Rider)*, *Legends of Light #2*, *Once Upon a Galaxy*, *Perceptions*, *Perfect Fusion #1*, *Perspective*, *Shooting Star #2*, *Southern Knights*, *The Leading Edge (sf)*, *The Millennium Falcon Casebook*, *The Monocle (Wizards*



Photo by Arwen Rosenbaum

Rebecca Carey, Debbie Roberts, ?, Cheree Cargill



Photo by Nora Mayers

Judith Yuenger and Carolyn Gollodge

PERSONAL STATEMENT

(In response to Candace Pulleine's Personal Statement in SE#36)
(No further correspondence will be printed regarding this matter)

From: Ann Wortham
1402 Allison Avenue
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701

I guess I'm going to have to respond to this one, even though I don't have time for this nonsense...

Here goes. First of all, let me point out that Candace Pulleine has not asked my permission to reproduce the entire text of my editorial, and she certainly does not have the right to give everyone *else* permission to reprint the entire text of my *Southern Lights* #6 editorial. She is guilty of "bootlegging" it, in fact. Be that as it may, I will take that up with her.

Here is what happened: After Revelcon this year, I spoke with my longtime friend and agent, Bill Hupe, who had attended the convention. Bill had done me an enormous favor this year. I had the masters for *Southern Lights* #5 ready early, but I could not afford to print the zine myself until MediaWest. Bill knew that I had many pressing bills and that my mother was in and out of the hospital, so he offered to print the zine at his own expense for a limited run just for Revelcon. He said he would take care of telling everybody there that the zine would be "officially" available at MediaWest. When I checked my records I found that only 4 or 5 people who would be attending Revelcon had actually prepaid for the zine. After the convention, Bill said he had explained to these people that they would be getting their copies of *Southern Lights* #5 at MediaWest and none of them seemed to have a problem with this arrangement. Anyway, Bill informed me that there had apparently been a great deal of bootlegging taking place at this year's Revelcon. He was an eyewitness to several incidents that led him to believe it could be a major problem. Further investigation, and talking to other editors who were at the convention, revealed that there was a problem, and that many people were aware of it. Later, more editors would come forward maintaining that they stopped attending Revelcon due to the bootlegging they saw taking place. I was busy working 12-17 hours a day at my job, so Leah Rosenthal [who resides with Ann] called Candace Pulleine about what steps she intended to take to insure it didn't happen

again. When Leah and I had talked previous to this call, we were certain that Candace must be unaware of the situation and that she would be horrified to know. Unfortunately, Candace's attitude was one of complete denial. She kept asking Leah how we could know what happened at Revelcon since we weren't there. (People talk to us, Candace, that's how we could know!) Leah hung up with the feeling that Candace was completely unconcerned and wondering why the head of a convention would react so defensively. So, Leah followed up with a letter, again simply asking Candace to put in place some safeguards for future Revelcons, to insure that bootlegging would at least be discouraged. Bill Hupe had written to her in the meantime, describing the incidents he had witnessed. It is my understanding that other editors wrote to her, as well. Bill had told me that, although he did very well at the convention overall, he had not sold more than a copy or two of each issue, even brand new zines. On at least one occasion, two fans stood in front of his table; one was about to buy a zine and the other told her, "don't buy it; we're making a Kinkos run later and you can copy mine cheaper." When Bill wrote to Candace, he used the sales of *Southern Lights* #5 as an *example* of how his sales of new zines went at the convention, since he knew my zine was well-known and generally sold well. (In fact, *Southern Lights* #5 sold very well at MediaWest ... about as expected.)

Candace's response was to write Bill a letter, again denying that bootlegging could have possibly occurred at Revelcon ... and then she launched into a long, vitriolic attack against me and my fanzines. She seemed to be maintaining that if people bootlegged my zines, they were *justified* because, after all, I had held one person's *deposit* on a zine for two years! She seems to have totally missed the point that Bill was trying to make regarding overall poor sales at Revelcon, tied in with the eyewitness accounts of bootlegging attempts/plans. The sales of *Southern Lights* #5 at Revelcon or anywhere else are not the issue. Launching personal attacks against me and my publications does not do anything to solve the problem.

Candace has repeatedly been presented with proof that bootlegging was likely, and has repeatedly

FACES

responded with defensive justifications and personal attacks. I certainly don't understand it. Everyone involved in writing or calling Candace has repeatedly tried to reassure her that she was not herself being accused, nor were any specific accusations being made (although I have in my possession a handwritten letter from a Revelcon attendee, wherein Joyce Davidson tells me pointblank that she intends to bootleg my zines and encourage all her friends to do so, as well). I have received hate mail from others in the Houston area whom Candace has obviously recruited in her campaign. I would say this is a case of "shoot the messenger" ... except I never even wrote or spoke to Candace myself. I am shocked and disappointed to learn that Houston area fandom would react in this way to the knowledge that some fans among them are apparently driving up the cost of zines and, literally, putting zine editors out of business. All that was originally asked for on the part of Leah, Bill and others was a simple statement of policy from Candace that bootlegging would not be tolerated at Revelcon in the future. This was handled privately in the beginning and could have remained so, if Candace had reacted responsibly instead of with defensive hurt pride.

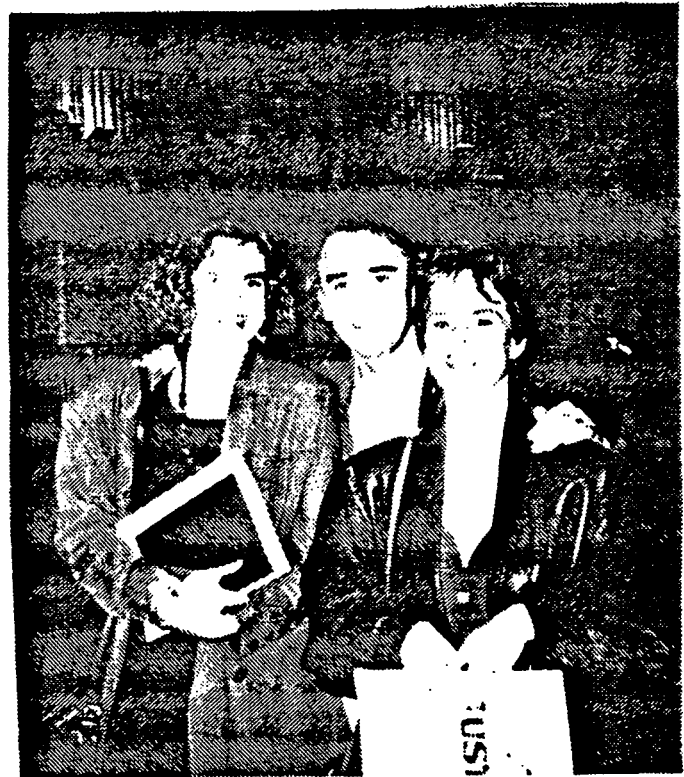
(Editor's Note: I have printed the previous personal statement from Candace Pulleine and this response from Ann Wortham in order to fairly present both sides of this issue. No further statements will be printed by either side. Any further discussion should be held privately. However, I would like to say that, as an attendee and dealer at Revelcon, I personally saw no evidence of bootlegging. I am not taking either side here and have no evidence that pirating did or did not take place, only that I personally had no problem with Falcon Press publications being pirated, that I know of.))

WILD-EYED ABOUT DISCOVERY: As Indiana Jones, Harrison Ford was terrified of snakes. But



Harrison Ford

apparently he doesn't mind spiders. Mr. Ford, who played Indy, is sharing his name with a new species of the arachnid, columnist Liz Smith reported Friday. Dr. Norman Platnick, curator of the American Museum of Natural History, named the eight-eyed creature *Calponia harrisonfordi* after the actor narrated a movie the museum made about exploration.



Louise Turner, Denis Lawson, Catriona Campbell

Catriona Campbell



Catherine Churko & sister

THE FORCE IS WITH HIM

'Star Wars' savant Lucas plans celluloid comeback

By ANDY MARX and MAX ALEXANDER

SAN RAFAEL After several years spent building an empire of his own here in Northern California, George Lucas, the father of "Star Wars," is getting back in the movie biz.

Besides readying three more features in the "Star Wars" series, Lucas is bringing back his "Indiana Jones" franchise, via a feature that will again team Harrison Ford and director Steven Spielberg. That film will be written by "Fugitive" scribe Jeb Stuart. (See Buzz, page 5.)

Lucas told *Variety* that the three "Star Wars" prequels will be shot simultaneously within

the next four years.

One compelling reason for Lucas' return to filmmaking could be that he controls the rights to both the "Indy" and "Star Wars" franchises. It's almost unheard of for major sequel rights to exist free and clear of a studio, and it could land Lucas the kind of deal his friend Steven Spielberg got on "Jurassic Park," in which the di-

rector is an equal partner in profits. (See story, page 11.)

The three "Indy" films collectively grossed \$620 million in the U.S.; the "Star Wars" trilogy raked in \$808 million domestically.

It's unlikely that Lucas, who hasn't helmed a feature since the original "Star Wars" more than a decade ago, will direct any of the new films. But his decision to move ahead and produce new features based on his most popular franchises is a welcome sign to the film industry, from distributors to theater owners.

In the past few years, Lucas has concentrated on expanding his lucrative business in special effects, videogames and television from his sequestered mountaintop aerie.

The lavish Skywalker Ranch has attained almost mythic status as a latter-day Hearst Castle — even though Lucas' high-tech compound is built for business, not parties.

As to who will get to distrib-

ute the new films — which are virtually assured to be cash cows — that's anybody's guess. While 20th Century Fox had the first three "Star Wars" pix, LucasFilm execs say the studio does not own rights to the new films. They would not elaborate, but Marvin Davis, former owner of Fox, told *Variety* through a spokesman that a "key man" clause in the original "Star Wars" deal returned the rights to Lucas when Davis sold his studio to Rupert Murdoch.

Sources say Lucas originally made a three-picture agreement with Paramount for the "Indiana Jones" films but that the studio has no claim beyond that. But Lucas' relationship with the studio is good, and star Ford has close ties to Par as well.

Lucas is also exec producing "Radioland Murders" for Universal — a low-budget romantic murder mystery comedy that's set on the opening night of a radio station in 1939. The film is based on a 20-year-old idea by Lucas, who came up with the story while working on "American Graffiti." The film will be directed by Mel Smith. Production starts in No-

vember in Wilmington, N.C.

Another film that Lucas will exec produce is "Red Tails," about a black Air Force unit in World War II. The film will be directed by Thomas Carter and is expected to begin lensing next year.

While there has been continued speculation about more "Star Wars" films since "Return of the Jedi" was released in 1983, Lucas has been reluctant to begin work on the new pics until he can bring down the production costs.

With that in mind, Lucas has been using his ABC TV series, "The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles," as a laboratory to control costs through digital effects. The show, recently canceled, just won an Emmy for digital matting.

Lucas' goal is to blend simulated, digitized environments seamlessly with live action, in part to save on location costs. While available systems designed by Lucas' Industrial Light and Magic have worked well for the TV series, the technology that will enable special effects-laden feature films to be shot more economically is still not fully developed, says ILM VP and general manager Jim Morris.

But Lucas says, "I'm trying to advance the technology to a point where a film like 'Star Wars' becomes feasible."

Until that time, Lucas will not begin work on the scripts for the three films. "George considers the development of this technology to be as important as the development of the scripts," says Gordon Radley, president of LucasFilm.

And just what will the three films be about? Lucas isn't talking except to say they will all be prequels to the

existing trilogy — that is, taking place in time before "Star Wars," "The Empire Strikes Back" and "Return of the Jedi."

Meanwhile, execs at ILM and Skywalker Ranch are not worried that the popularity of "Star Wars"

could have waned in the two decades between the original "Star Wars" and the new films. For one thing, LucasArts, the company's lucrative game division, has been turning out successful videogames based on the franchise for many

years.

And besides, says Radley at LucasFilm, "We're looking at these films as brand new franchises, separate from the originals."

Michael Fleming in New York contributed to this report.

INDY NABS JEB

Jeb Stuart, the screenwriter whose credits include "Die Hard" and first position co-writing credit on "The Fugitive," has been hired by George Lucas to script the fourth installment of the Indiana Jones chronicles, which will star Harrison Ford and be directed by Steven Spielberg. Even though it looked like the character was ready to hang up his bullwhip after he found the Holy Grail in "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade," Lucas confirmed last week he wanted to go ahead with a fourth installment.

Sources say that once he got an agreement from Spielberg and Ford, he began looking for a writer, and Stuart's about the hottest action scribe in town right now. He's also been doing work on a high-priority Paramount actioner, "Drop Zone," based on a John Bishop script about skydiving, to be directed by John Badham. Stuart's agent, UTA's Jeremy Zimmer, was unavailable for comment.

RIVER PHOENIX

DIES

Young screen actor
collapses outside
popular nightclub

By Philip Wuntch

Film Critic of The Dallas Morning News

River Phoenix, the star of such films as *My Own Private Idaho*, *Stand by Me*, *Sneakers* and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, died early Sunday after collapsing outside a West Hollywood nightclub.

Cause of the 23-year-old actor's death was unknown. An autopsy was tentatively scheduled for Monday.

Friends said Mr. Phoenix had been "acting strangely" before he collapsed about 2 a.m. outside the Viper Room, which is owned by actor Johnny Depp and is popular with young performers. Mr. Phoenix was pronounced dead 50 minutes after being rushed to Cedars Sinai Medical Center.

The actor had almost completed filming *Dark Blood*, co-starring Judy Davis, and was to have begun filming *Interview With a Vampire* with Tom Cruise in a few weeks.

Mr. Phoenix was born in Madras, Ore., on Aug. 24, 1970. His parents named him after the river of life in Herman Hesse's novel *Siddhartha*. His siblings were called Rainbow, Leaf, Liberty and Summer. Much of his childhood was spent in Venezuela, where his parents were missionaries for the Children of God religious sect. During interviews, he frequently stated that his unconventional childhood, which reportedly included singing on Caracas street corners with his sister Rainbow, proved an asset in depicting a wide variety of characters on screen.

Early in his career, he had a reputation for being polite and low-key during interviews. As his fame increased, he became moodier, according to some accounts. He visited Dallas twice during the last year — in April for the USA Film Festival tribute to Richard Harris and in August for media gatherings for *The Thing Called Love*, the Peter Bogdanovich flop about aspiring country-Western artists in Nashville.

At the film festival, his behavior was polite yet unpredictable. A staunch vegetarian, he carefully inspected each morsel for red meat before devouring his choices caveman-style. He jauntily said that he felt his scenes in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* were "the only good things in the movie," and he predicted that *The Thing Called Love* would be "the only small film this summer that would still be playing alongside *Jurassic Park*."

Mr. Phoenix was the recipient of favorable comments from his colleagues throughout his career. When the young cast of *The Thing Called Love* visited Dallas, he seemed to be genuinely liked by his co-stars.

In retrospect his career seems highlighted by risky, often admirable choices. He rarely stooped to the fluffy "teen comedies" that plagued many actors of his generation. His star was firmly set with the 1986 release of Rob Reiner's *Stand by Me*, in which he gave an impressive performance as the tough-talking but tenderhearted leader of a group of boys who discover a corpse on a weekend jaunt.

His frail but lithe appearance made him a natural for vulnerable characterizations. He followed *Stand by Me* by playing Harrison Ford's initially worshipful, later disillusioned son in 1986's *The Mosquito Coast*. Three years later he played Mr. Ford's character as a young teen ignored by his self-involved father in *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

Sunday, Mr. Ford said he was "terribly sad" about the death of the young man who co-starred with him in two films.

"He played my son once, and I came to love him like a son, and was proud to watch him grow into a man of such talent and integrity and compassion," he said in



a statement. "We will all miss him."

Mr. Phoenix won raves for his performance as the musically gifted son of fugitive parents in Sidney Lumet's unappreciated *Running on Empty* in 1988 and for his chance-taking portrayal of a gay, narcoleptic hustler in Gus Van Sant's 1991 feature *My Own Private Idaho*. He also was excellent as a Vietnam recruit who falls in love with a girl he escorts to a "dog contest" in *Dogfight*, a 1992 film that never received the attention it deserved.

His delicate manner was compared to that of James Dean. Although none of Mr. Phoenix's films made the impact of Mr. Dean's, he died even younger than the 1950s icon, while still leaving a legacy of admirable performances and a sad void where future performances easily could be anticipated.

Those Jedi might return

By Jay Boyar

Orlando Sentinel

A long time ago in what seems like a galaxy far, far away, the *Star Wars* trilogy whooshed and whirled to a planet-shaking conclusion.

That was a decade ago — on Wednesday, May 25, 1983, to be precise.

On that quasi-historic date, countless star warriors sat or stood in long, chatty lines to be among the first to behold *Return of the Jedi*. Some had waited there for as long as a week to bear witness to the final chapter of George Lucas' interstellar epic.

For many, it seemed like a consummation, the end of a journey they'd begun in 1977 with *Star Wars* and had continued three years later with *The Empire Strikes Back*.

For the greater portion of the known universe, the moment of the film's release had to mean something. After all, the influence of the *Star Wars* saga on popular culture had been so vast that whether or not you'd signed up for this journey, the Force was almost certainly with you, at least to some slight degree.

So here it is, a decade since *Jedi*, and guess what?

Those in the know are buzzing.

What they are buzzing about specifically is the prospect of yet another *Star Wars* film in the not-too-distant future.

Aren't three blockbusters enough, you ask? Haven't we all pretty much had it with space operas? Of course not!

"It's a thirst that has never been satisfied," admits Charles Tyus, a manager at Enterprise 1701, an Orlando, Fla., science-fiction/fantasy shop, who reveals that his life changed suddenly when, at age 8, he saw *Star Wars*. And as each sequel appeared, he was ready.

"After I saw *Jedi*, I felt kind of

empty because there was nothing more," Mr. Tyus recalls. "It's been 10 years, and I'm still foaming at the mouth."

Star Wars mastermind George Lucas originally envisioned nine feature films. The movie we generally think of as the first *Star Wars* — that is, the one actually titled *Star Wars* — is actually the fourth chapter in Mr. Lucas' saga.

Lynne Hale — public relations director for Mr. Lucas' Lucasfilm Ltd. — says the most frequently asked *Star Wars*-sequel question is simply "When?"

If the fans have been buzzing more loudly than usual of late, that's partly because of what Mr. Lucas had to say about a sequel in a recent issue of *The Lucasfilm Fan Club Magazine* — all 40,000 copies of which, of course, instantly sold out.

"I'll probably start writing it in the next couple of years," said Mr. Lucas (who declined to be interviewed for this article). "Somewhere between 1995 and the year 2000, there should be three more *Star Wars* movies that will come out."

Many star warriors suspect that the first film in the new series will be released on the 20-year anniversary of the date — May 25, 1977 — that *Star Wars* premiered. (Only the second film of the trilogy did not open on a May 25; it opened on May 21, 1980 — close enough.)

"That's the word I've heard: May 25, 1997," notes Dan Madsen, president of the Lucasfilm Fan Club, publisher/editor of the magazine and the person who interviewed Mr. Lucas.

Distributed by Knight-Ridder Tribune News Wire



BY ANNIE LEIBOVITZ

Harrison's Close Shave

■ Notoriously tight-lipped star Harrison Ford gets caught with his pants down in the July *Vanity Fair*. "If you are in fashion, if you become a part of that machinery . . . then there is sure to be a time limit on you, and you are soon going to be unfashionable," he tells the magazine. "Because I have never been fashionable, I can never be unfashionable."

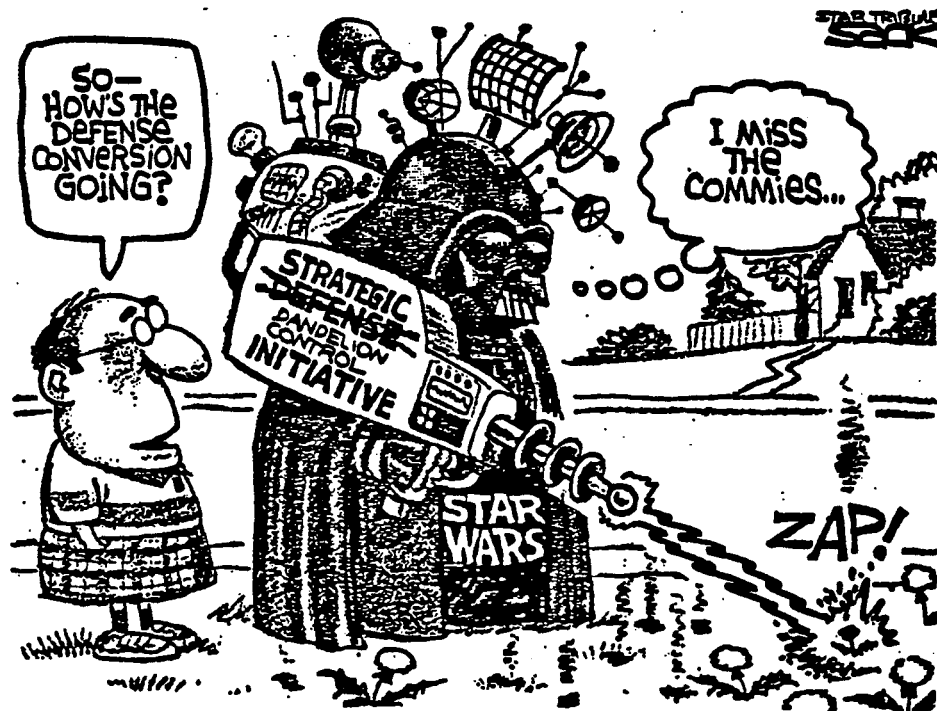
THANKS TO...

Maggie Nowakowska, Mary Jo Fox, Debbie Kittle, Barbara Anderson, Z. P. Florian, Catriona Campbell, Catherine Churko, and everyone else who sent in clippings and photos. We will try to run as many as possible in this and future issues.



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continued from inside

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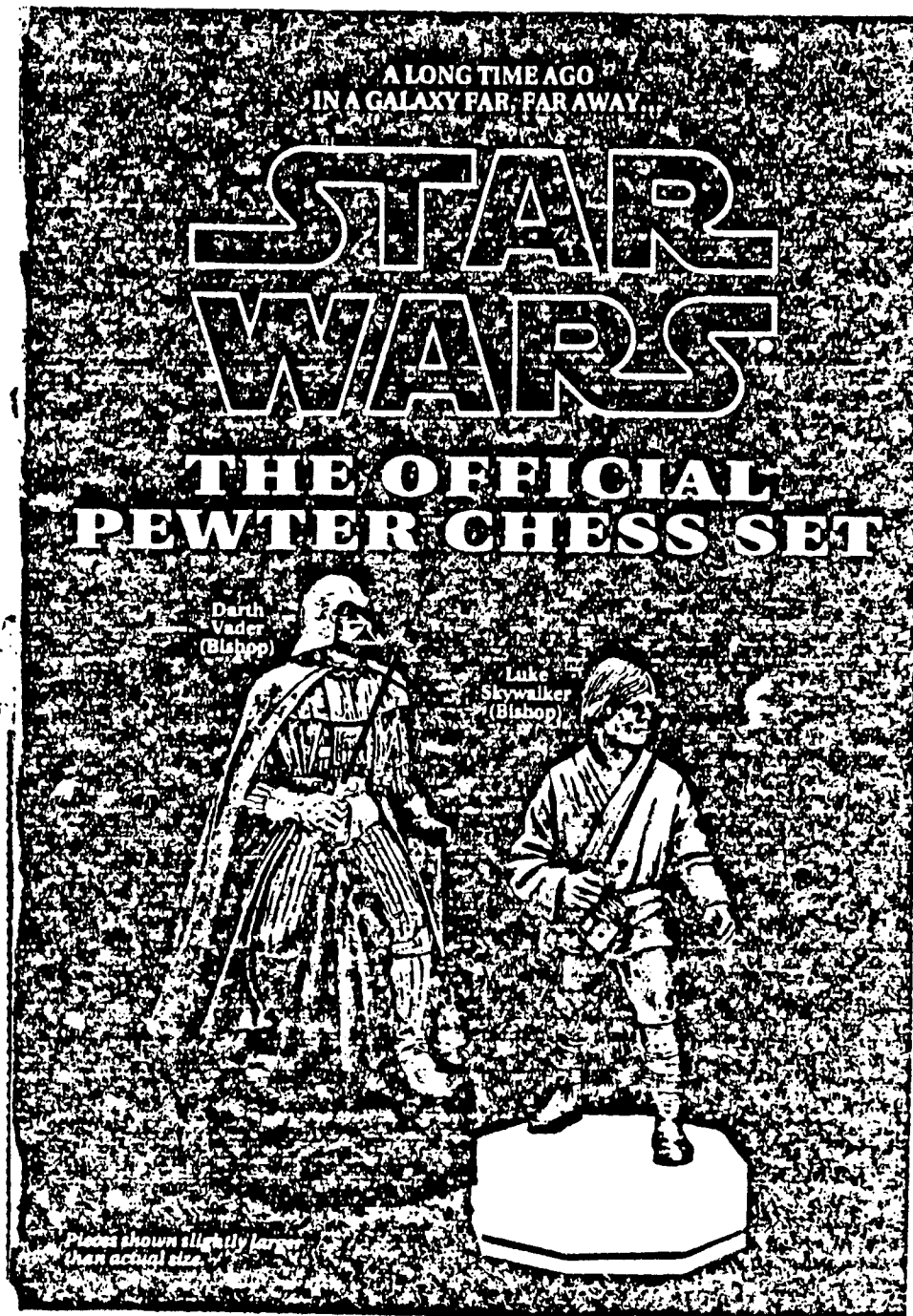
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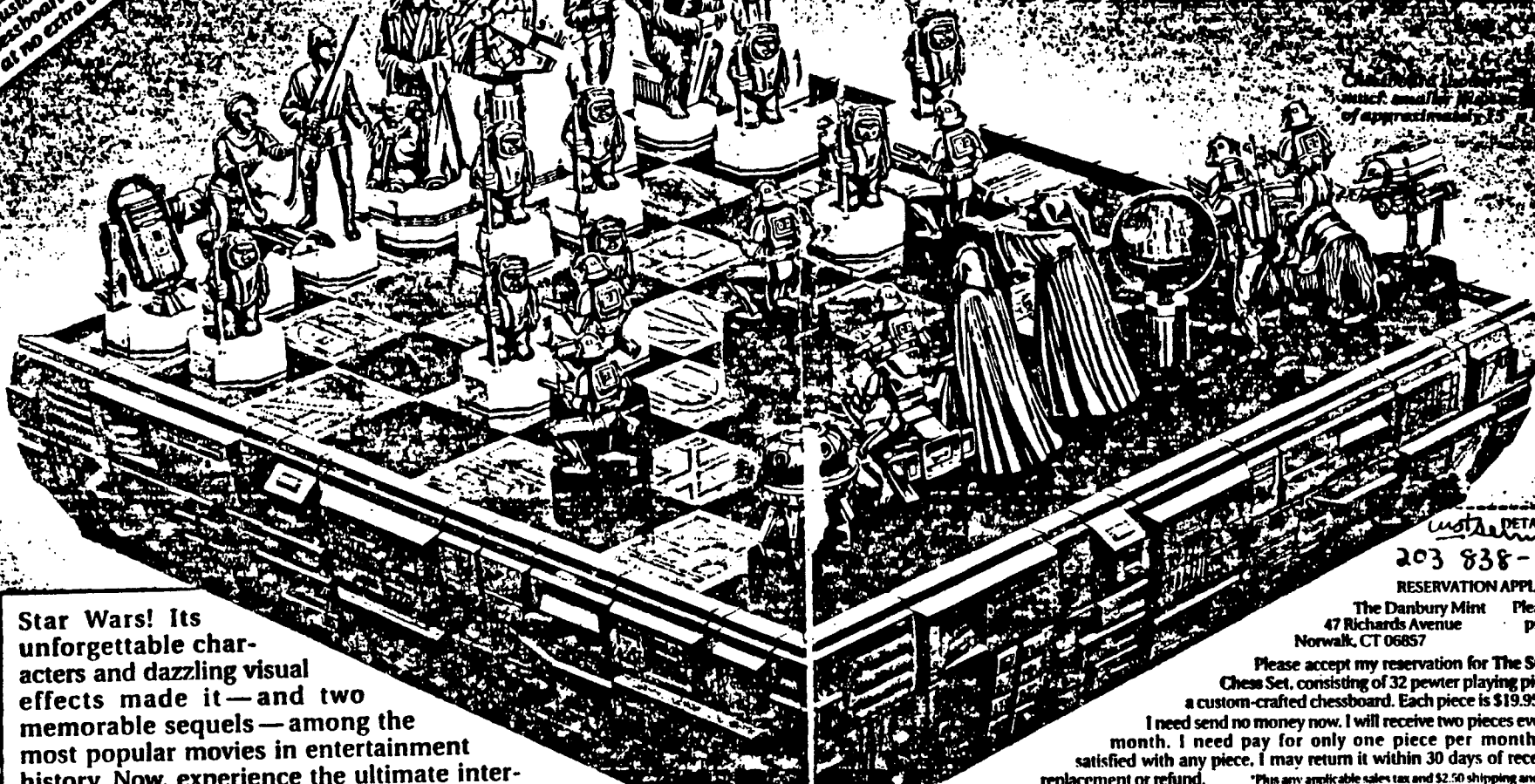


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by Z.P. Florian

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The Renegade & The Rogue

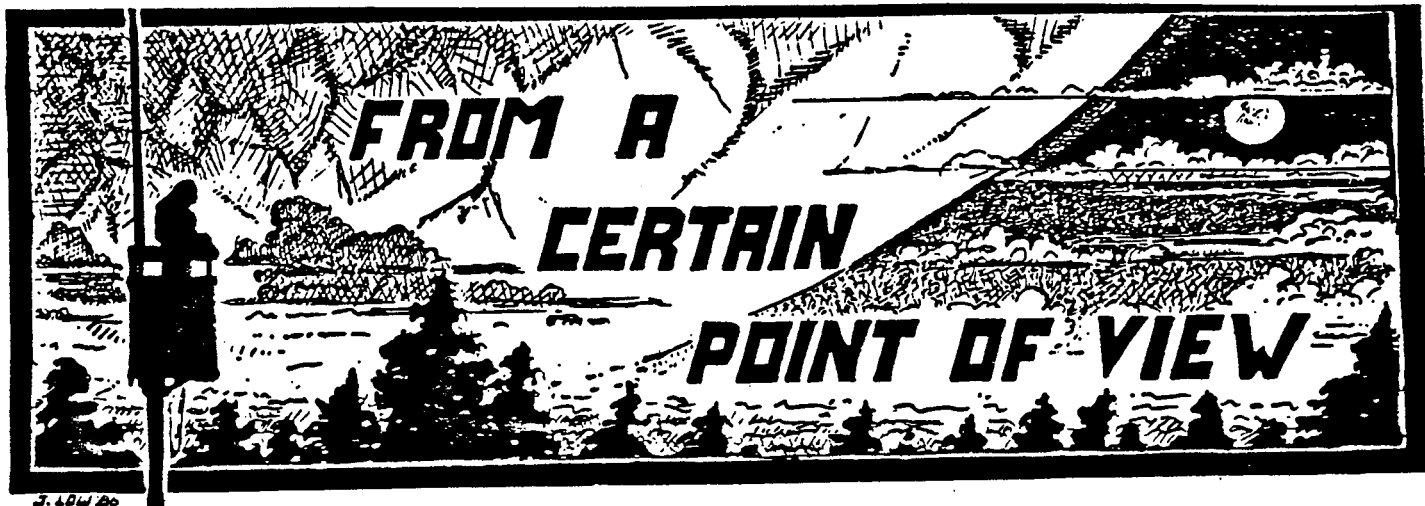
***by Martha Wells
Illustrated by Wanda Lybarger***

Emil Arandu Was an Imperial
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A Dark Lord,
and a friend of Darth Vader.
He also hated the Emperor.
And had a curious sense of personal Honor.

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And had his own code of personal Honor

Was it their Destiny or just bad luck that their paths should cross?

This is a collection of Martha Wells' Arandu stories, featuring expanded versions of her first stories and 2 new ones. There are over 250 pages illustrated by Wanda. This is a one shot put out by Soaring Wings Press, and will be out about the first month of 1994. SASE for information to Ming Wathne, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93110



Marti Schuller
415 S.E. Annette
Lee's Summit, MO 64063-3403

August 21, 1993

As always, I was thrilled to find SE in my mail. This first issue after MWC is one I've looked forward to eagerly and I wasn't disappointed. I do think, Cheree, that in the future, if SE remains so wonderfully large, you may have to invest in an industrial-size stapler. The staples in my copy fell out even before I opened the envelope. Seeing all the photos was great, even though copies of pictures usually resemble negatives. They brought back all those fun memories. Is it 1994 yet? ((Ed: Sorry about the staples. This issue just about did my stapler in! I was ready to get out the binding machine! And I know that the photos don't reproduce really wonderfully, but having them professionally screened runs about \$35-40 a page!))

Even though I was lucky enough to be there, I really enjoyed reading Judith Yuenger's con report and recount of the awards ceremony. The Honorable Mentions are a fabulous idea, too. When votes are that close, it's nice to see recognition for everyone. At the risk of repeating myself, everyone in SW fandom owes Judy a standing ovation! I'll also be awaiting more info on this "minizine" of SW stories listings. Do you plan to do yearly updates once it's done?

Okay, before I get to the letters -- and before this gets too long -- a brief word on the Great Flood of '93. Even though I live in Missouri, we were basically unaffected by the devastation that struck so many. My husband had to take an alternate route to work since the highway he usually travels was underwater, but that was the extent of our inconvenience. We were lucky. So many lost everything, including a small town

north of KC that even lost their hundred-year-old cemetery. My heart goes out to all of them. If any fans were victims, I'd like to offer whatever help I can.

Cheree: I was sorry to read you hadn't gotten a room at the Holiday Inn, but the SE Hospitality Suite sounds like a great idea. I also applaud your editorial decision to keep SE strictly SW. It's so easy to get sidetracked since we all have such diverse interests and personalities. Yet SE is where we "meet" to discuss our one shared passion. I'll do my best to stay true to that purpose. Now, to the letters.

Z. P. Florian: Thanks for the insight into dachshund behavior. So far, Annie has exhibited only about two-thirds of your list, but then she's still a puppy. They are a unique breed, stubborn as Corellians.

Wanda Lybarger: Thanks for your sympathetic understanding. Our two new additions have definitely brought love to our hearts. Ta also for making me feel less a coward about flying. Enjoyed our brief visits at MWC. Maybe next year we can talk more. Congrats on your much deserved awards, too.

Debbie Kittle: Masochist! You can have all the snow you want. I'll take sunshine any day, not that we've seen much of Old Sol in my neck of the woods lately. I recently saw *The Guyver* and, unlike you, hated it. Mark, Mark, Mark. Tak-tsk. ((Ed: Those of you who have Showtime on cable, look for Mark in something called "John Carpenter's Body Bags". I was flipping channels last night and caught him looking very beat up and dark. Can't vouch for the show since I wasn't interested in watching it, but this appears to be his latest.))

Veronica Wilson: No comment except to say welcome and it's about time! Now that you've gotten your feet wet, you're gonna love it here.

Tammy Olsen: Sleep? What's that? Oh yeah, I remember. That's what you do after MWC, right? Please don't tell me about your flight from Spain. I'm

chicken enough without other people's horror stories to fuel my nightmares.

Yes, ROTJ is my fav film of the saga and mostly because Luke has become a man also. Like Mary Jo Fox, I'm a little weary of all the bashing for that film, too. I hope we haven't traded the Church-Cathedral Han-Luke debate for an TESB-ROTJ endless argument.

Jennifer Moore: WHOA!! You flatter me beyond description, but an "authority" on Luke I am not. No one is! I can't speak for Veronica, but that's too ponderous a label for me to live up to. Like all SW writers, I know "my" Luke very well and I'm deeply gratified when readers approve of the way I write him, but that's the extent of my ability.

I'll look forward to your MWC-inspired "zine stuff". Great meeting you.

Yvette Ghilan: Luke and Leia were "born on Tatooine, of course?" Maybe in your galaxy, but not necessarily. I wrote a story where they're born on Alderaan and Bail knows of both children. The fun of SW writing is that the films left so much open for interpretation and personal views. Shoot, we can even write a story saying one thing and then contradict ourselves later, if we choose. I like that kind of playground, personally.

Tim Blaes: I agree that if someone suffered brain damage, long-term or simple as a concussion, their ability to use the Force would probably be affected. Good point. I also couldn't agree with you more about *Jurassic Park* and those magnificent dinosaurs.

Barbara Anderson: I will definitely look for that West End Games Guide #9. It sounds like a must for SW writers. Thanks for sharing the info.

At last, another sane person who recognizes snow for the abominable stuff it is. Hurray!

Tina Bentrup: While I'm not a fan of the Luke/Leia Endor scene, the portion you dislike, where Leia says "I..." and nothing more is one part I do like. I don't feel it's a missed cue, bad acting or bad directing, as you said. For me, this is a good glimpse of an emotional Leia. She's too choked, strangled by too much revealed too quickly, obviously afraid that if she speaks more tears will follow. During her conversation with Luke, she's pretty well under control. This scene shows us she's human after all.

Of course, I had as much fun sharing vices. Can't wait to do it again next year and, don't worry, I'll bring enough to share. I honestly didn't mind.

Catrina Campbell: Okay, so you like the Endor scene. My main objection, I think was the lighting. It was hardly flattering, do you agree. Anyway, to each

his own.

"Mom and Aunt Beru" as sisters, though, is something I cannot accept. The novelization revealed Owen and Ben as brothers. That's enough. Must everyone be related in this saga?! No, I say, no.

Good question regarding the puddle in Jabba's desert dungeon. Leave it to you to notice the little things. But who says it was water? Like you, I can't accept Chewie using the floor to relieve himself, but perhaps what we see is a leftover from the former occupant. Maybe it isn't even urine, but blood or the alien equivalent thereof.

Brian Harris: Another new addition to the pages of SE. Welcome! I enjoyed your comments on women in fiction in general. Women are as varied as men and I, for one, hope to see more types depicted in fanfic. I've even found several unique individuals creeping into my own recent efforts.

You're also right that SW fandom is like a family, vastly extended, but a family all the same. Nice to meet you, cuz.

To everyone else, hello and I'll catch you in the future. At the risk of incurring our editor's wrath, I can't sign off without a word about *The Fugitive*. Though I'm not a diehard Ford fan, this movie is great. Tommy Lee Jones was outstanding and held his own against Harrison, in my book.

Well, happy autumn to all. Keep the Force, always! Peace.

A Special Blessing

Nora L. Mayers
7537 Murray Hill Road
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August 24, 1993

My, my, Cheree, what a treat issue #36 was! Before I begin, let me say thank you once again for bringing us all together. Considering that you have so many other pressing obligations, your dedication is nothing short of miraculous, and your contribution to SW fandom is greatly appreciated.

MediaWest was a special blessing to me this year. I was in and out of the hospital and home on disability for six months during the fall and winter of '92, only beginning my recovery shortly before MediaWest (thank the Maker!). The support of my

friends in fandom greatly accelerated my recovery. May I name names? Thank you, Wanda Lybarger, for the wonderful letters and silly cartoons -- you're a sweetheart and all the nice things people say about you are true! Barbara Anderson, for support and loooooong letters -- they kept me laughing and happy. I can always count on you for the latest Harrison news! Cheree and SE for the lovely distraction, to my friends on GENie, without whom ..., and to so many others who offered their support and friendship (Kathy? Kathy Agel, are you there?), I thank you sincerely. Getting to MediaWest after the long winter was like dying and going to heaven! I'm doing very well now and have many of you to thank for keeping me optimistic.

It was a wonderful con this year! SW is taking over! Tomorrow the world(s)! To all those detractors who say SW is dying -- sorry, but wishful thinking is obviously getting you nowhere! It was wonderful to see so many people. Carolyn Golledge (G'day! I keeping wanting to get a letter to you, but my life is running at high speed these days! I have a stack of mail sitting on top of my computer waiting for responses, so bear with me, I'm working on it! I'm working on it!), all the Cheryls and Sheryls, Maggie, Z.P., and a cast of thousands (all right, a cast of dozens, but it seemed like thousands!). The skits were a hoot, the hall costumes were marvelous (can't say much about the formal competition, though -- wha' happened?), the SE party was fabulous, and the blaster battle must have been a success because I kept stepping over dead bodies all weekend. It didn't help any that I was dressed as Luke. I kept getting stopped -- either to be shot at, or recruited. Raised hands and cries of "Civilian! Civilian!" did little to thwart anyone -- no one believed me! Neutral Jedi, that's me!

Okay, onward and upward (the opening lines of the Republic National Anthem, I'm told).

Brian Harris: Your spaceport or mine?

Debbie Kittle: I knew I shoulda contacted you about going to see the opening of *Jurassic Park*! I tell ya, there's something seriously wrong with me. The moment I was introduced to Ian Malcolm in the novel, I was gone. I loved the character long before I appreciated Jeff Goldblum in Malcolm's iconoclastic black garb (I thought Goldblum was marvelous, btw, although he did sorta remind me of Warren Beatty in *Heaven Can Wait*). I love the dinosuars, but out you chaostician! Too bad they didn't do more with Malcolm in the film after he broke his leg -- he was so wonderfully obnoxious in the book!

Gerald Crotty: I beg to differ although I

appreciate your viewpoint. Harrison Ford's interviews strike me as intelligent and straight forward. He speaks with distinction and thought. If he were a politician, I'd vote for him! He's a breath of fresh air in a field dominated by egotistical windbags who don't know when to hush! Not boring in my book -- rather a man who knows what he's talking about.

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: I'm driven to work every morning in a vanpool that gives new meaning to the word "somber". No one speaks, so we generally have a pretty dismal hour's ride to Washington, D.C. Well, you've ruined my stoic reputation for good. When I got to the part in your LoC that read, "I understand the irony of the Empire having a 'plant' in the Alliance..." I roared. Everyone looked around to see who'd had the audacity to break the vow of silence and found me chortling and wiping my eyes. Personally, I think Zahn is an excellent writer, but he writes lousy SW. SW is more fantasy than science fiction, and Mr. Zahn writes good science fiction. Too bad -- it could have been so good! My other complaint is that Zahn, like the writers of the Dark Empire comics, has made Han a fifth wheel. It seems that professional writers don't quite know what to do with our dear Corellian now that he's gone respectable. How is it that so many fan writers, however, *do* know what to do with him (*Down, Barbara Anderson! Down! Good girl!*). Which segues me into the next comment...

Tammy Olsen: First, thanks mightily for the offer to dub the panels and blaster battle! It's very generous and kind of you. I appreciated your comments on Han, even though I *profoundly* disagree that Luke was the only character to suffer. Let's see -- Han was strapped to a scan grid and tortured until he screamed, and according to the novelization, he'd never screamed before in his life, so the pain must have been excruciating. Then, still shaken from that ordeal, he's struck with a blaster rifle, frozen in carbonite, and sold like so much merchandise to Jabba. Other sufferers: Lando had his share of angst when he was forced to choose between betraying his friends or saving his city, and the fact that he ultimately lost Cloud City qualifies, I think, as suffering. Poor Leia lost an entire world -- is there any greater suffering than that?

Tim Blaes: What I meant by saying that fans know the characters better than the creators is that very often, particularly toward the end of many series, many originators take the characters in directions that seem contrary to what's gone before. It happened dramatically (and dismayingly) in Classic Trek, it

happened in *Remington Steele*, probably in B&B (although I can only go on what friends tell me about this, never having seen the show), and it happened in ROTJ. Fan writers are often very, very familiar with a character's personality traits, idioms, speech patterns, etc., and try to adhere to that, probably because they know if they don't, they'll have to face the wrath of outraged fan! I don't mean to disparage the creators. Certainly the characters belong to them and we're merely borrowing them for our own pleasure. However, it's my impression that when a series gets "old", the creators seem to tire of the creation and get careless. They're ready to move on to other things and the heck with the old stuff. Granted, there are fan writers who miss the mark on characterization, but more often than not, they're more careful about what a character says or does than the originator who's become bored with the whole thing.

Barbara Anderson: Cuz! Congratulations first and foremost on your win for "Trust Fund." You once wrote me and said you feared the story read like the Little Golden Book of Starships -- see how wrong you can be? It's a wonderful story (a fan classic!), and you justly deserved to win. Now that I've embarrassed you, I'll address one of your questions! You asked Cheree what the appeal in editing was. (If I may jump in, Cheree?) For me, it's the pleasure of being able to share the fandom and the work of my contributors with others. Because I don't make a profit, I find my reward in a nice looking finished product (there's a tremendous sense of accomplishment when a new zine is finally bound and ready to go), and it's nice to get feedback from people who enjoy it.

Tina Bentrup: Tina, I have to disagree! There's a lot of plot left for the Corellian (as that three hour SW discussion at MediaWest proved, I think). Have a look at *Flip of a Coin*, with all its great Han stories -- two of *Flip*'s writers, Barbara Anderson and Cypher, won Star Awards this year. Mary Jean Holmes has woven some incredible plots involving Our Boy, and Carolyn Golledge can always find a new way to put Han in traction! (Note: I admit that I'm not a hurt/comfort fan, but I always enjoy Carolyn!) Oh, Han is a wonderful character to work with, and I never tire of thinking of new things for him to do -- or new things I can do to him, but that's another fantasy!

A. G. Steyn: A.G., I'm absolutely positive you're as cuddly as Chewie at naptime! My comments about editing were generic and not directed at anyone in particular -- but since you asked...! There are a few writers I'll accept and know I won't have to edit, manuscript unseen. However, since I really want to

give my readers their money's worth, I usually find I must edit. Not the story (I made the mistake of doing that once in my early, dim-witted days of editing, and will never do it again), but occasionally syntax and punctuation.

Jacqueline Taero: Did I ever mention that I scan all my SW zines first and foremost for two things? Wanda Lybarger's art and your poetry. I do! Regarding the volcano issue: A fan at MediaWest [Joyce Yasner] who'd visited Hawaii mentioned that (somehow, forgive me, I don't know specifics!), lava can flow on level ground or beach and that tourists can even get close enough to see it. I wish I remembered the semantics of her talk. It was fascinating, but I honestly don't remember the details. Anyway, she suggested that OWK and Vader's battle at the "volcano" needn't have occurred at the peak of an about-to-erupt mountain, but could have happened in this way. As for our agreement on Han's befuddled condition during ROTJ -- the poor baby! One can only hope Leia got the poor boy back to normal with lotsa lovin' once the war was over!

Ming Wathne: We've got to stop meeting this way! We trade comments in SE, but never get the chance to talk at MWC. Let's do lunch (sorry, I've been working at a corporate law firm too long). I understand that you have family in my area. Next time you visit, let's get together with Debbie and Cheryl and have a good time!

Louise Turner: I want to hear more about your horse. I have an Arabian gelding (who is currently going through the terrible two's and trying to teach me who's boss! I think he's winning!). Oz is a good boy when he's not being a bad boy, and he's the pride of my life. And so, changing horses in the middle of the stream -- On the matter of lead underwear, that kinda takes the romance out of things, doesn't it? Maybe that's where Han got that swagger. I, too, am a Wedge admirer, by the way, and he has a large role in my novel (which will be released next year at MWC). He was fun to work with because there's so much you can do with this underdeveloped character!

GENie: I'd like to encourage everyone to join up NOW! Not only will it make it easier on Cheree (I'm e-mailing this LoC to her via GENie which she can download directly onto her hard drive), but it's so nice to trade daily comments with MWC attendees and SW fans. It's a great way to communicate, it saves a fortune in postage and long distance phone bills, it promotes friendships, and it's more fun than bullseyeing womprats! Besides, I need someone on the *Jurassic Park* topic to tell me it's not impossible to

write an Ian Malcolm story. *Dangerous* maybe, but not impossible!

There's so much more I want to say, and so many more letters I'd like to comment on, but this LoC has just stretched to three and a half pages. Y'all fly casual now, y'hear? (Nora, a Detroit native, affecting a Southern accent. Just be grateful you can't hear it in person!)

Short-n-Sweet

Mary Jo Fox
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Awright, awright! I'll try to keep it short-n-sweet this time around.

Veronica: I loved your Vader 'n' Leia story in *Imperium III* and the poem in *Alliance and Empire*. The story you wrote with Marti in *Tremor #7* was great as well. Please keep writing these Vader stories! You'll be interested to know that I wore my Vader t-shirt when I saw New Order in August, and I'll probably wear it again when I see Depeche Mode September 12, just as a way of remembering all of you guys! Let me know if you ever come out this way.

Catriona and Louise: I don't write "bruisie-mendies" but to help inspire story ideas, I'll listen to my SW soundtrack tapes. When I'm actually writing, though, I could be doing anything from watching TV to sitting in class or listening to music.

Do you think Chewie was in that jail in Jabba's dungeon long enough to make that big of a puddle? Actually, he's quite a civilized Wookiee, and I think he'd discreetly take care of himself in a corner or something. Oh, why am I talking about this??

Leanne: What are you doing at the Grand Canyon?

Tina: Thanks for offering the extra Sansweet book, but I did find a copy about 2 days after I sent that Loc. Is it true you had a Vader shrine in your room at MediaWest?

Fiorenzo: I *knew* you were going to spit and cuss when you got around to reading *The Last Command*, particularly since Mara survives. I thought for sure she was going to buy it, but then again, I thought Winter was the Imperial spy, too.

Do Darksiders spend more on SW paraphernalia? I don't know, but most of the big-time collectors I've met were more on the scoundrel side. Haven't met

any "Jedi" collectors, though. I guess they're too busy leading "pious" lives (as A. G. Steyn would say), living under vows of poverty, to waste money on stuff.

A. G.: Malla ... oh, yeah, I almost forget about her. She won't have anything to say, because Chewie wasn't Leia's baby making partner. *BUT* in *The Last Command*, Zahn mentions that Jaina, the little girl, had black hair. Now Han's got light brown hair, Leia's is kind of reddish brown, and the only other blood relative we have left is Luke, who's a blonde. Sure, the black hair could've come from the grandparents, of which we know nothing, but it's also possible that ... gasp ... Wedge is the daddy! Wedge has black hair, you see...

I can't believe I'm writing this...

Tim: I think Yoda meant not to ignore one's dark side, but to know it for what it is, and not allowing it to control you. I don't think anybody really believes you can "destroy" or "hide" away your dark side. After all, it's a part of you, and it must exist so that your "light" side may exist.

I suspect the reason why we don't see torrid love scenes in the novels is mostly to make sure the SW universe stays safe for the kiddies.

Yvette: Yeah, *Next Generation* and *Deep Space Nine* copied the strong-woman thing from SW. On the old ST show, Uhura and Christine Chapel were steps in the right direction, but they were still minor characters or played second-banana to the macho goings-on of Kirk and Co. SW was the first major sf/fantasy film to show a woman who was tough, intelligent, and as much a part of the action as the boys. Look at most of the sf movies and shows that came after SW ... they've all had similar female characters (but I still think Leia's the coolest!).

Debbie: I keep missing the QVC specials, darn it! Now, I don't even have cable. They won't have it installed for 2-6 more weeks (hopefully, it'll be in by the time you read this). Bill Shatner did it for the money. I almost went to that con with Leonard Nimoy... Siamese twins, huh? Weeird.

Cheryl: I have the Death t-shirt. Y'know, I think she and Darthie would make an attractive couple.

Brian: Howdy!

That SW Galaxy trading card by Jon J. Muth was a picture of a droid looking at Luke's HAND, not head! Please, folks, I'm not that morbid!

Hey, what did y'all think of *The Fugitive*? I loved it. Harrison was as lovely as ever and Tommy Lee Jones was great.

Well, I hope you enjoy the bounty of SW stuff this autumn and you have a Happy Halloween. Gotta hop

on my speeder bike and skeddaddle...
Zoocommmmm!

First LoC

Charyl Perry
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September 17, 1993

Hello, everyone! Believe it or not, I've been receiving SE since November '92 and this is the first time I've written! Well, it's the first time I've finished a letter. I actually started writing this in December '92! I keep missing the deadline. Now that I've met many of you at MWC, this is a good place to jump into the conversation! It was so wonderful to meet all of you at Port Lansing. I can't even begin to type all of your names, but please know, I do remember all of you and I'm counting the weeks until MWC '94 (35 weeks as of 9/18/93).

This is an exciting year for SW fandom. It has seen new SW books, comics, and CD sets, and it will soon see lots of new zines (said typed in my best Vader voice ... er ... font.)

An artist friend of mine and I want to make a new kind of zine. I already have a title for it -- *Technological Terror*. The submission guidelines are simple: "You make it, we take it." We hope to have a section devoted to each character, theme, side of the Force, or whatever you want. This zine will be featured as an electronic zine, but we will produce high quality hard copies for non-computer users. We're hoping to have it ready for holiday shipping. Some of the perks of the computerized zine will be real-time sound and visual effects, plus the ability to print the zine. I will bring my Mac to MWC '94 to give a demo of this new technology. Any help and/or submissions will be greatly appreciated. And now, my two cents worth...

Kathy Agel: I'll have my Mac next year so we can have groups of people calling GENie and/or AOL. I'm glad the zine price war is over! What a mess.

Michelle Malkin: Love and Lust in SW? Yes. I know fans shouldn't be disrespectful to Lucas' characters, but you can't tell me that great fighters don't make great lovers. :)

Debbie Kittle: What is the LFL Club Newsletter? LucasFilm?

R2D2 and C3PO seem new enough that they would've been constructed under Imperial times. They must have been Imperial model droids. If C3PO has Imperial knowledge, then R2D2 would, too. Plus since R2D2 has a way with computers, he must be special.

I think Vader didn't realize about Luke until after Luke went on missions for the Alliance. I think Vader knew he had a son. I can see the Emperor killing all newborns on the planet. I can also see the Emperor missing Leia's existence.

"Mynock to an exposed power cable," cute, real cute! :) Godzilla was my first scary movie.

A. G. Steyn: Han and Leia getting down and dirty from time to time would be refreshing. They are human. I like the idea of a little slapstick in stories. A good SW comedy would lift my spirits.

Marti Schuller: I agree with you. Layers of the Force.

I don't think it would be execution to kill off Dark Jedi. Someone who has fallen to the Dark Side isn't likely to just ho-hum around the galaxy and be dark. I think they'll use it. I'm sure their deaths would be in defense or in war. Very justifiable.

Carolyn Golledge: Voice is everything. Vader stating, "Apology accepted, Captain Needs" is much better with James Earl Jones. I love Vader's voice!

If Kenobi made it off of the Death Star, I don't think killing Vader would be a mandatory lesson. I think Ben would've taken Luke to Yoda.

Z. P. Florian: I love *Anakin*. It will be interesting to compare your story to Lucas in '97.

I think the Jedi religion is kind of like ESP. By the time we get to Endor, Leia's been through so much. After finding out about Vader, all she could think about is running.

Mary Jo Fox: Since Leia didn't realize her sensitivity with the Force, and her training on Alderaan, I don't think she could fool Palpie in the senate. Vader might have felt it, but since her parentage wasn't disputed, he didn't think twice about it. Leia's insights don't serve her as well as Luke's.

Catriona Campbell: Keep on writing Luke gets the girl stories.

I think Dagobah was familiar to Luke because he was there as a child or the Force gave him comfort.

I used to play SW with my Barbie, Luke and Leia dolls. The sibling secret didn't surprise me at all. Parentage was a surprise, but it made sense.

Tammy Olsen: We must be mad! I don't think what possessed us to want to edit a zine! I'm going crazy and the first issue isn't even out yet. Typos are

a bear and, of course, you don't notice them until you've mailed about 100 issues out. I can't wait to see *Only Hope*.

Let's see, there are Vaderisms, Hanisms, Benisms, and Palpitations.

Tim Blaes: The Force behind love-making? Now that you put it that way, I think I like Luke more than Han. :) Hey, Melanie G., if you're reading this, would be a great story for AS.

Cheryl Pryor: Just saying hello from one CP to another. I loved the dolls at MWC. Have you thought of any 3PO / stories? :) It did seem like we were the only people at MWC. SW is!

Jacqueline Taero: You said Vader is ruthless, not clumsy. In TESB, he fell when Luke pushed him back, and he fell in ROTJ when Luke kicked him. A younger Ben might have been able to push him into a volcano. Maybe he hates clumsiness now because of his own mishap. I believe the volcano theory.

Veronica Wilson: Hey, you need to send me a Vader story to TT. I have a friend with a very deep Vader voice. We can do some voices for the computer version.

Cheree, M.J., and Z.P.: How about this for a story or heading title in a brown paper bag zine: "They Came From Behind," said Porkins. :)

And on that note, I'll see you next issue.

Nice and Big

A. G. Steyn
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Germany

(Please note new zip code - which we Krauts needed like we need a rattail and pink polkadots on our heinies!)

This is supposed to become a short LoC. Should it exceed 4 pages, Cheree-darling: grab the scissors! (And the ed smiles gleefully: at last -- green light for the blue pen!) Oh, yeah, by the way: I love the "Non Sequitur" toon. Say, is that you wearing the black hood, Cheree? You know, some people do look good in black... Um, I'm in the picture, too. I'm the first one in the lineup.

No more quotations? Geez -- and just this minute I was thinking about using some excerpts from the phonebook of metropolitan L.A. (pages 45 to 204).

My sincerest thanks to all you wonderful people

out there giving your valuable opinions on inventing new names/terms for old items. It will give me more security the next time I have to make the difficult decision to "dream up or not dream up."

The photos were great. Looks like you all had a swell time. And congrats to the winners of the awards.

Jacqueline Taero: No, the SW universe does not have lawyers. They already have politicians and Obi-Wan Kenobi ... enough hardships. No additional amusement necessary!

"Best SW Tabloid Headlines"? I love it. I will try to come up with some. This is familiar turf for the wackiest of the wackos in this fandom.

Ming Wathne: Palpie and Darthie ... boss and *exec sec*? Thanks. I am flattered to be compared to Gridface. I don't mind becoming a Sithlord (uh, Sithlady). I will have the powers of the Force and can live out my sadisms without fearing capital punishment. Han, Luke ... front and center!

I will try to give you a call -- provided I can find your phone number!

Z. P. Florian: The stories I have (in the ruins of my mind) are not *unprintable* -- they are *unwriteable*!

Hm -- before you spread out the Ewok pelts and get comfy with the kid (and your fannish competitors ... people watch out: orgy in progress!), please make sure the furs have proven free of fleas, or you may find yourself itching for more than just a date with a Jedi.

And Darthie's boots stay clean from kicking so many rumps during the day that dust can never settle on the leather.

Debbie Kittle: Puzzled about the reference to Shatner (re: R2 bumping into furniture)? Maybe old Cap'n Kirk not only needs toupee and girdle, but also a white cane to get from here to there? Or maybe he starts kicking the furniture around when he feels neglected? Who knows. Other planets, other customs.

Regarding the Han-model ("That thing is nice and big"): Lady, even a good-for-nothing Corellian is not just a "thing". He may have a nice big one, tho -- but that is, unfortunately, only a guess.

Luke Jones? Sure. Remember the affair Dr. Else Schneider had with assorted Joneses? Well, she survived the earth-- make that the temple-quake, and nine months later in an air raid shelter in Berlin gave birth to a little blond. This also explains where the dark forces within the boy came from!

Tammy Olsen: "...see someone else (Han) go through *some* pain, too"? Are you serious? *Some*

pain ... after the session on the scanner grid? The clubbing by Lando's stooges? The freeze-drying process in the carbon pit? And after going through the emotional wringer time and again? Sheesh ... and people call me a sadist!

Mary Jo Fox: "Worst stories"? "Worst art"? "Worst ... whatever"? Wow, thanks, hon. By all means, let's do something like that. I already see myself as the winner in every possible category. Take it from the zine publishers: if worstness has a name, it must be Steyn.

Preach on street corners? Will preaching on a cattle ranch do the trick, too? I already see myself holding a SW sermon to the bovines. "And then the archangel Luke with his flaming sword threw the sinners out of the garden of Eden...!"

Tim Blaes: What schedule? Do I have a schedule? Maybe if I did have one, my life wouldn't be such a chaos. Rigel and Wedge? Sure, they'd make a neat couple. And Leia would be pleased to see another girl with "insane asylum hair". But funny buns/braids or not: at least the she-folks see where they're walking. Which is more than can be said about some of the heroes, whose bangs dangle down to their nosetips. ("O say, can you see ... my eyes? If you can, then my hair's too short!")

This "video scrapbook" you are suggesting is something I would give an arm and a leg for. Is there a way to blackmail Georgie??

Carolyn Golledge: Three cheers for your "humble opinion" on ROTJ. And please: keep the Corellian yelping. Despite what the "normal", "decent" SW aficionados say.

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: The opener of your LoC had me in stitches. I haven't had the "pleasure" to read it yet, but maybe Carolyn Golledge should consider it a new torture for Han: have him read all 3 TZ books without falling asleep or throwing up or going bonkers.

Butterfly net? Hm, good idea -- but wouldn't it have been wiser for C'Baath to use the net for catching His Imperial Shrivelfacedness instead of just a Rebel hand? Wrong shaft, wrong time, dearie.

Mon, the "good evening" girl? Yeah, I can picture her as a TV announcer ... hogging valuable network time by telling the viewers what they are about to see until everything has been told and you don't need to watch the show any more.

Empirecon? Next spring? Don't I wish. I'm not quite sure I will have the time, but anyway: tell me when and where and how...

Cheryl Pryor: Droid smut? Welcome to the

gutter. Another fine young person corrupted to the filthy side of the Force by the impossible Z.P. and the unmentionable A.G. What a crying shame.

Ah -- the *Vanity Fair* photo: Indiana Jones in his ancient briefs (as one of my fellow Harrison-lusters here in Germany recently put it). Yes, I wondered too just how they did get him to pose for such a shot. Maybe Melissa took it and secretly sold it to the magazine publishers?

Barbara Anderson: Where did you dig up that old ... no, not fossil. That outrageously funny toon of a pleasantly surprised Leia and a "helpful" R2. It must be the princess' birthday.

Catriona Campbell: The puddle in the dungeon on Tatooine. I had never really thought about that, but you are absolutely right. Just who or what took a leak there?

And to the Newcomers: Welcome to Fan/Zinedom!

And a final note to all you Midwesterners along the "Big Muddy": I am keeping my fingers crossed for you flood victims. May the Force be with you in those times of turmoil. Living just 7 walking minutes from the Rhine River, I know what an eerie feeling it is to watch the waters rising.

Okay, that's all, folks. Read you in Issue 37. Until then, fly casual (but regularly).

Not Dead or Gafliated

Carolyn Cooper
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Hi! Some of you probably thought I'd died or totally gafliated. Not quite. I've been working, working, working. I'm still working, working, working, but I felt the need to get back in touch with the things I enjoy -- that aren't related to work. You know you're in trouble when you need to check your datebook to schedule your anniversary! Anywho, I've been getting some lovely letters from folks around the world asking about *From a Certain Point of View* and Hanna Beru. I wanted to thank everyone who wrote and to say that after talking with some of you, I've decided to dust off the brain, pull out my notes, and start another issue of FACPOV. As always, FACPOV strives to be positive and there's a theme. This will be the "family values" issue. I'm looking for lots of good stuff about the families, children, childhoods, and

relationships of our heroes. I'd particularly like to find a good piece about Leia's childhood. She must have been a pistol, er, blaster as a kid! I've got a lovely piece by Z. P. Florian about how Chewie found Han. And, of course, there will be another Hanna Beru piece. (Yes, Joanne from England, I'm working on the Beru Wedding story, as well. Just can't promise I'll get that finished in time. It's a big story.) All in all, right now I'm pretty open to good writing and because of the tight deadline, I'll work to be prompt with editing requests. Since this is the "family" issue, I'd love to get some of the SW fandom family in it! I'm going to try begging, although, I'm starting a little late for a Spring '94 premiere.

I've been doing a lot of wire or on-line "surfing" lately. Anyone else hooked on-line? My Compuserve e-mail address is 76460,2356. I should have a Delphi/Internet addresses by the next issue, so I'll keep you posted. There has been some talk about Lucas' plans for the next SW films on Compuserve Entertainment Forum, but mostly it's been confirmation on what they will be about. Anyone else heard the rumor that Mark Hamill might be back as an old man Luke, sort of the new Obi-Wan or Yoda? Well, I'm sure you folks are much more up on this than I am, so I'll wait until I get my issue of SE before commenting. As always, take care and fly casual...

College Student

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Yeah, I know I'm gettin' this in close to the wire here. I'm in college now and have absolutely no time for letters. Especially nice long letters!

I loved #36! I hope you put more on MediaWest in the next issue. The pictures were great.

Oh, yeah, the rooms for MWC next year are gone. Two days after the con started! I know because I didn't get a room either. Anyone looking for a roommate??

The pictures of the doll exhibit at the art show were great. Next time, I hope, Debbie, Z.P. and whoever (I don't know who did the dolls) else worked on the dolls, put them in a place where we can all take pictures.

Judith Yuenger: I love the zine listing. It helped one find so many stories and authors. Now I just need to find a way to get the zines (most of them were older zines) where these stories appeared.

Z. P. Florian: Oh, yeah, Jedi make better lovers. I would be happy to train Luke (or vice versa).

Charyl Perry: Hey, girl, thanks for X-wing. Of course, I'm here at school and am going to try to sneak it into one of the computers and play it. I don't think I can wait several weeks until I go home. Good luck on *Technological Terror*. You are going to need it.

Marti Schuller: Oh, yeah, I've read "Emperor's Revenge." From the moment I read it, I hated the idea. Tho' it was sooo well written. That's how I knew your name when I met you. I couldn't believe a Luke fan could do that to the poor Jedi! My lightsaber's ready if you do that to him again!

Okay, this may be a dumb question, but who is MU? I've seen these letters several times and have no clue. Is it a person? ((Ed: *Missouri University? Is that correct, Marti?*))

Debbie Kittle: Have you seen the new SW TIE at Suncoast Video? It's so cool. How about the t-shirts? I keep asking them (I'm 5 minutes away here at school) if they are going to get the new dolls in but they don't know anything about it. That *Dark Empire Sourcebook* is beautiful. Luke is gorgeous on the cover.

Veronica Wilson: Great to see a LoC from you. Hope school is going well. I like it but it's lonely here with no SW friends to talk to. I've called Debbie Hoyt (and so have you, I think she said) so many times. She just knows what to say to cheer me up.

Carolyn Golledge: Yeah, I heard about poor, poor Palpie getting captured by the Rebels during the Blaster Battle. Leia should have just let him die instead of freeing him. (Are you listening, Debbie? Summer will get you. Luke may scold her, but she will get him.)

Cheryl Pryor: I have a great picture of you at one of the panels with you holding up a picture of Anthony Daniels kissing 3PO. Droid smut, huh? That should be interesting.

Tina Bentrup: My phantom mom won't be making an appearance next year at MWC. She was awful bored and promised that if I went by myself next year, she would pay my airfare!

That's it for now. I have to go study. Take care and walk the sky.

Maggie Nowakowska
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September 25, 1993

Well, I've wrestled the computer from the student of the house and will try to get a coherent LoC together in time for the 10/1 deadline.

And, I promise, Cheree, I'll do it without any long literary quotes!

A. G. Steyn: I've always felt that it was Yoda, rather than Kenobi, who understood that Luke's relationship to Anakin might pierce Vader's armor. For me, Yoda's comment that there was another hope referred to his understanding that Kenobi's insistence on Luke the Warrior was off the mark.

As for Luke not using the Force for every troubling circumstance ... I suspect that the reason is a combination of lack of experience and a "Saga Value" that the Force is not a magic wand that solves all problems. After all, the example we have of someone who uses the Force to get his own way all the time is Palpatine. And, in Jabba's palace, Luke uses his skills left and right, but it's still a fight. By Endor, he may be figuring that the consequences of using the Force for an easy out can be more troublesome than the original problem.

Oh, hey, if you want ideas that predate SW (and *Battlestar Galactica*), take a look at the Japanese *Starblazers* anime series. The Hoth segment of TESB looks very interesting in animation....

Marti Schuller: Hi, to you too! It's always nice to stand next to someone who's articulate when in line!

The NIMGAS acronym is great. As for the bad guys ending up on the edge of the galaxy in a familiar solar system, I've long thought that was a reasonable idea and figure they started showing up about the same time that we started hearing ideas that the Earth/material world was an evil place; of course the outsiders would set themselves up as Authorities and declare the local flora and fauna as deficient and something to reject. Instead of philosophies that stuck to the concept of getting along, love, and respect for the balance of Life, we got dualistic religions obsessed with battles between Us and Them.

You know, your comments about making Luke sterile so he doesn't have to worry about a family got me to thinking that this specific interest in fandom reflects a very female point of view. After all, men don't have to worry about being sterile to keep from getting involved with a family if they really aren't

interested in the subject. They can just walk away, whereas the only ways women avoid having to deal with children is by inability (artificial or natural) or lack of sex. Not that I think Luke would walk away from a potential family; I just suspect that the need for such an explanation would not occur to a man. How about it, guys?

Veronica Wilson: Re: realistic representations of Leia as aristocratic politician. I remember a rather lively exchange in *Jundland Wastes* that followed one fan's acebric LoC suggestion that people be required to read about history and aristocracy and politics before they write anything about Leia Organa (or SW, for that matter). There have been stories that present Leia as experienced, but most stories seem -- to me -- to present her more as a middle class girl/woman, reflecting the writers and their interests. Z. P. Florian writes a pretty aristocratic Leia; you might want to check out her stories in various zines.

Maybe the lack exists because folks like Leia tend to be very focused on one subject, which doesn't make for the average dramatic story. Reading about the French Revolution, I found this -- not a passage quote, Cheree! Honest! Just a sentence or two, please! -- "It is very difficult to discover the meaning of private life for the revolutionaries. The memoirs of leading political figures are remarkably impersonal. They are devoted almost entirely to the panorama of public life... Love, marital relations, or personal health ... are left in the shadows, as if irrelevant to the great experiment..." (*A History of Private Life*, Vol. 4) Somehow that sounds a lot like Leia.

Yours and Ming's comments to me on my Strong Women Rant last issue got me to thinking that maybe what we're really complaining about is not the roles of women but the presentation of women in those roles. Wife/lover does not automatically equal wimp/brainless entity, no matter the insistent stereotypes. Strength of character will shine through in whatever a person does.

There are strong women who are wives and weak women who are wives; strong women who are mothers and weak women who are mothers. Just as there are weak women who are in socially defined "strong" roles simply because they hide their weakness behind the ability to bully and attack first -- just like some men do. If the women in stories are Real People with virtues and vices, I have no trouble with them (most of the focal points in SW are male and any lover or side-kick is going to be a secondary interest of the reader.)

But, I think again, we probably all have our own

descriptions of strength of character, too. I know a fine young woman who defines it as being willing to give up all worldly ambitions so that she can accept a subordinate role in marriage. And there is one songwriter who wrote within a traditional structure of roles and whose work I still love and cherish because his women are strong and nobody's fools and are deeply respected as successful human beings for their family work.

And so, Ming, give us your definition of a strong woman for this mix of discussion!

By the by, somewhere I have a copy of a magazine from 1977 with a SW review by Delany wherein he reports that the missing Biggs/Tatooine scenes from ANH were cut at the request of 20th Century which felt that the movie ran too long and that the scenes slowed the movie down. Delany hoped -- as many fans do -- that Lucas kept the scenes and would one day allow a complete movie to be screened.

Mary Jo Fox: Maybe Young Leia And How She Came To Be the Active Woman She Is stories aren't so popular because Adult Leia As The Woman She Is isn't really accepted. If Leia the Senator isn't taken seriously or even believed, how can How Leia Became a Senator be interesting? And -- I'm on shaky ground here, but what the hell -- maybe Leia as a fellow woman is simply too close to us to write about. For all the emotional wringers fans put the male characters through, there's still that difference between Us and Them to hide ourselves in.

As for heroes and political reality, I deeply believe that one of the "lessons" in the Saga is that no one is free from the darker demands of life -- or can succeed if the Dark is totally denied. All our SW heroes have faults, make serious mistakes, and still are heroic, indeed become heroic from what they have learned/gained from their darker sides. One point I think Lucas makes is that although we should not give up to the dark either by using it for our own gain -- or by becoming cynical (and hopeless), it is still a fertile and necessary part of life.

Perhaps one of the reasons that people these days have such trouble believing in heroes is that our definition of hero is skewed. We seem to insist that heroes be divinely perfect; and if they aren't perfect, if they have to accomplish their deeds with sometimes imperfect means, then they can't be heroes.

I read that Tom Peters article as a cautionary piece: that if we ignore the darker side of leadership we leave ourselves weak before possible abuses of that darkness. (Likewise, if we are obsessed with the darker side of leadership, we may abdicate our

involvement with the political process and end up victims just as surely.)

If we believe that Mon Mothma leads by being nice and wise and Obviously Right to Everyone, then should MM ever go Darkside we will not see it until far too late. If we refuse a good leader respect because she has both light and dark means to make her leadership effective, we're probably too cynical/apathetic to be involved anyway. And if MM herself does not recognize that some tools of leadership are Very Dangerous To One's Soul, then she could one day find herself building a Death Star of her own. I would argue that MM's, or any life-affirming leader's, heroic status depends on judicious use of those darkside tools and should not be condemned because of that use.

I have successfully chaired many committees and have learned that just being nice to and fair with people will not get the job done.

First, everyone has his and her own definition of nice and fair which will not be the same as yours, so you'll never be considered fair and nice by everyone, no matter your intentions. And your committee will accomplish nothing if you spend your energy trying to get *everyone* to agree with *everything*. At some point you have to say it's time to move on (and yes, someone will call you bossy and dictatorial when you do that).

Second, it's your responsibility as leader to keep these people with different definitions working together toward a goal they all define their own way. That means working with those different definitions, balancing them, appealing to those interpretations that promote the agreed-on goal, discouraging those that are counter-productive -- and your hard work toward that consensus will be called manipulation by someone.

And we all know what folks think about *manipulation*. It's a darkside tool -- and it's necessary. (Like when a parent tells Child 1 he can cut the piece of pie with the stipulation that Child 2 gets to pick the half she wants first.) If it's used with wisdom and humility and respect for your ~~children~~ committee, most people will both forgive you, and admire you, for manipulating/understanding them in a positive, constructive way.

Yes, there's an Ideal in our culture that says that everyone with a Goal wants to work together the same way toward that Goal and a Good Leader only guides people in their teamwork ... but I seriously suspect that that Ideal was written down by a leader who didn't really listen to his people and who was equally

blind to his own darkside when he wrote "guide" down instead of manipulates.

Sometimes I think our culture today confuses "likes a person" with "thinks a person is moral," and "dislikes a person" with "thinks that person is bad." Someone can be a good leader because s/he is competent and respected; they don't have to be "liked" in the "be popular" definition. A person can even be a bit of a pill in personal life and still be effective in public life. One business article I read commented that successful leaders must be honest, forward-looking, inspirational, and competent. Those all sound like great virtues to have, but even a gang leader must be honest with his lieutenants.

So, I wouldn't worry over Leia and MM showing up in a Tom Peters-like article in the *Alliance Daily News*. But I sure would like to see some stories on how Leia and MM deal with the demands of their professions. My prejudice is that after twenty years of having to work around Palpatine, MM has some real doubts about her own ability to rise above the needs of the last 20 years. At least since I want MM to be a hero, I expect her to have those kinds of doubts.

Which leads me to more politics. I wonder how closely we can follow Terran examples in defining Palpatine's Empire. Can we even define the Empire until we define the Republic? Just how involved can a space government be in the daily life of a planet? We're talking about billions of people on each world, most of whom probably don't care much about what's happening in the Space Port Cities. They feed their families on the food they grow, they worry about local taxes and their neighbor's dog, they play the music their culture provides and they worship the god-metaphors that apply to their experiences. Maybe a planet that has a resource the space civilization wants/needs involves more of the population/land area in the production of that resource, but how many compared to 4 or 5 billion?

A planet is autonomous, a contained ecology, a collection of tribes specific to that world. Maybe the space ports across the galaxy feel affiliation toward each other; maybe colonies dependant on space trade are Very Interested in what the space government is up to; maybe those government officials who interact with the space government think of Alderaan as merely a member of the Republic, immensely responsive to the actions of other space entities, but does a local lawyer on the west coast of Alderaan's western hemisphere think of Alderaan as anything but The World? Does s/he have anything in common with the space lawyer who spends his/her life watching the sky?

Maybe what finally turned the tide for Alliance resources and support was Palpatine's dear little planet destroyer. Maybe until the Emperor started blowing up whole worlds, getting the attention of those billions of people, the space Empire was only a whill tale for 99% of the galactic population. Maybe Palpatine's Grand Illusion was that he could Be Someone Important to untold billions of people. ((*Ed: Maggie, a good example of your scenario could be seen with the recent turmoil in Moscow. While hundreds of people stormed the Russian Parlaiment building and engaged in bloody fighting, just a few blocks away and, indeed, throughout the entire country, the vast majority of the Russian people just went about their every day business. I think this is a pretty good look at what life in the Empire was probably like -- maybe there was civil strife in 1% of the galaxy, but the remaining 99% just worried about making a living and putting food on the table.*))

Matthew Whitney: Perhaps the reason there are so many versions of ANH floating around is the amount of illegal film snipping that went on in 1977 and '78. I remember there being quite a scandal over the number of missing prints and the mutilation of various prints because people were selling film clips at conventions and through the black market.

Michelle Malkin: Hmm, I hadn't heard the idea that Han was smuggling for Jabba under duress before. All the questions about Han's smuggling seem to rest, as so many other aspects of SW do, on language. Greedo comments that Jabba has a low opinion of smugglers who dump their load at the sight of an Imperial cruiser. Han comments that even he gets boarded sometimes. To me, his comment seemed incredulous -- that anyone would accuse him of cowardice -- and boastful under a veneer of humility (even Han Solo gets board sometimes, imagine that!). The only duress I heard was over the question of whether Greedo would seriously get in the way of Han solving his Jabba problem Han's way. But, I can see someone interpreting it as simply Han putting a proud, if resigned, face on a situation he dislikes but feels he must survive in.

You know, Mickey, sometimes I'm amazed that we do manage to keep any single-minded people in fandom; there's simply no way around the fact that we all watch the same presentation and fiercely interpret that presentation in 60-zillion different, sometimes opposing ways. To cling to one and one only interpretation is insanity. And yet people do cling. (I know that fandom has always boasted of its tolerance, but for so many years that boast paled before the various troubles that we all suffered through. Maybe we've

finally begun to live up to our hopes, at least in SW fandom.)

Speaking of analyses of fandom, I just finished *Textual Poachers* and enjoyed the book very much. It's a good complement to *Enterprising Women*. In this reviewer's opinion, TP addresses Slash the better of the two books, while EW is best on the Mary Sue question and the sociology/politics of developing fandoms. TP seems to place fandom more securely in greater society, too. The author is quite comfortable as a fan himself, while EW seems to be a bit hesitant when confronting some aspect of fandom that seems -- er -- unusual to her. I definitely think they should be read as a pair; I certainly wish someone would gather together all the articles on fandom that they refer to in their texts.

Louise Turner: There was a wonderful piece written on Wedge Antilles as the True Hero of Fandom back in the early '80s by a wonderfully witty fan named Sara Campbell not long before her tragic death. Cheree, do you think you could reprint that *Jundland, Too* gem? The O'Neills are on GENIE and could probably provide the copy; I imagine they are the proper source now, since Sara is no longer among us. ((Ed: I'd love to, if a copy could be obtained. I don't think I have my copies of JT anymore.))

Tina Bentrup: Re: your comment that a writer has to put herself in the story. Do you mean as a writer, any writer, or specifically as a fan writer? Certainly, a writer must have an interest in what is being written, although some formula writers claim total separation from their work. But I have always been uncomfortable with the claim that all writers identify themselves as some character in their work. Somehow I suspect that such identification only makes good writing more difficult due to the myopic affliction that seems to affect most people when they identify too closely with something/one.

Jacqueline Taero: I've always been fond of the idea that Vader had simply forgotten about Anakin Skywalker until Luke showed up.

The art of the SW universe is a wonderful subject. I would imagine that every possible media would be represented, from tactile manipulation of matter of infinite varieties to Forceful manipulation of those same media. I have a difficult time imagining how there could be any ultimate authority on the subject, short of someone who simply recognized and accepted the various cultural judgments on local art, or who had a gift for recognizing art that proves to be popular in multiple markets.

Would the galactic community be inclined toward

art that acted as metaphors for the spacial experience, or would spacers be nostalgic for their home worlds' creative expressions? And what about those bred and born in space? Since the Republic had been around so long, had it lost any sense of development in art and did galactic art simply travel through time in various fads -- this hundred years was known for elaborately designed spaceships and that hundred years known for utilitarian sleekness?

As for the believability of Anakin's close relationship with volcanoes -- isn't that possibility getting a little long in tooth? Lucas said it years ago and if all writers were held to vocal speculations, even to outlines, made long before the work in question actually gets finished, then we would all look like fools. I've always been wary of the interest in drafts for the same reason: the finished work is the work and everything else is simply development. Sometimes the idiocy of an idea you love and have talked about doesn't become apparent until the 4th draft and then you work like the devil to get rid of it and still make your deadline. Gad, I remember once letting a friend read a draft which had a bad idea in it. Although the bad idea was dropped/changed/exorcised, everytime the story was discussed, she brought up the old discarded idea as if it were still pertinent. Drove me batty and now she wonders why I won't let her read drafts.

Maybe Lucas will still go ahead and use that volcano idea. If he does, it will either work or it won't. But until he does, why berate the man for something he hasn't done yet?

Brian Harris: Ohmigod. Someone who remembers back to the early issues of Marvel SW comics and the lettercol. Ohmy. Yes, I'm the same Maggie. For those who weren't around then, Marvel was running a story line about surviving relatives of the Imperials killed when the Death Star went Boom! and appeared to have confused Motti and Tagge. Being the obsessive fan, I wrote to them with all my citations, pointing out their error. They were very polite in their answer, which they published with the letter.

I received some interesting mail in return, from the beginning of a correspondence with a young woman who was relieved to learn that folks over 20 did indeed read comics and who needed encouragement over seeking a career in film (her family had told her that girls couldn't do that sort of thing), to a young man who wrote in pencil, citing every sexy move Princess Leia made and any other such movements he had noticed in other SF films (along with an essay on girls' panties).

The story I referred to in my Marvel letter even-

tually became part of my ThousandWorlds series, an ancient fan alternate universe that draws solely on ANH since it was 99% written before TESB came out. So, it's a bit dated so far as canon SW goes. Currently, I write some short pieces in the fanzines, but Motti isn't in any of them so far.

Thanks for the flash from the past, and welcome to SE. Always nice to have another human of the male persuasion aboard.

Zine Piracy

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August 29, 1993

Hello, people of the Southern Enclave!

Just got issue #36 and realized I have, again, missed out on the last one. Also, as I expected, most of you were at the convention and met friends, and that's what you're talking about. *I am not jealous!* I have long since resigned myself to the fact that I'll never go to conventions, for they're too far away. Besides, the way I'm feeling now, in the Tatooine summer we're having here, the pace would probably be too much for me, and I'd collapse with a heart attack. (Thank you, Michelle Malkin, for the immortal phrase: "May the Air Conditioner Be With Me.")

Being so new to the fan scene, I find myself totally befuddled by the zine piracy issue. The open letter you published, as well as some of the things Ming Wathne wrote to me, on the difficulties of securing the rights to reprint old fan stories, have sure left me confused! I had always thought that:

- (1) There is no copyright possible when writing about material invented and patented by someone else (George Lucas, in our case).
- (2) That all that fan editors are allowed to do, is cover costs; and that this is the reason that fan authors and illustrators get no payment from them (other than contributor's copies).
- (3) That, if we don't get paid, at least we can reprint our stuff elsewhere if we choose (and are accepted), as nobody has any rights to our work, not us and not the editor(s).
- (4) That, on the other hand, we can't complain if

someone else copies our work, and neither can the editor.

And finally:

(5) If someone "pirates" our work, that's a compliment, not theft! Fan authors don't get any money, only appreciation; and too damn little exposure, as is graphically demonstrated by the voting for the Star Awards -- where only those who have read a specific magazine are in a position to vote for it.

As for fan editors, they don't expect to make profits, anyway, only to break even! We all do it *for fun, as a hobby*, and if we can't break even, due to the cost of paper, printing, distribution, etc., and/or *the fact that our magazine is too expensive* for the average fan, well, we fold.

At least, that's what I thought. Am I wrong? Have I missed out on something? Will anybody out there please enlighten me?

On another subject, I was overjoyed to see the proliferation of SW zines advertised in SE! Why, only two years ago, very knowledgeable people were saying that "Star Wars fandom is dying." While I never bought *that*, there was no doubt that we were all quite isolated from one another. Well, seems the trend is reversing... Due no doubt to such people as Ming Wathne and Judith Yuenger, who are doing such yeoman's service in putting fans and editors on lists and in touch... (In my case, Judith gave me the addresses of a number of fanzines I could send my work to, when I had no idea of where to turn, for which she earned my undying gratitude.)

Since "Ed" says that letters must stop at three or four pages, and since I simply *must* say something on the subject of the ROTJ good/bad picture issue, I don't think I can comment on all the letters I wanted, but two are a must:

Catherine Churko: I was very sorry to learn that your mom was sick, my best wishes for her recovery! I love your illustrations and would love to see the professional ones you did...

Brian Harris: It's good to see that men have evolved since my day, when my brother was the only man I knew who was "far more impressed by a woman's humor, independence, intelligence and whatever else he admired (than by her measurements). You probably admire Princess Leia, then, not like the dinosaurs of both sexes who do ostracize her and depict her as frigid, because she functions totally outside the context of what our society still believes is a "woman's place" (as is so much deplored by Mary Jo Fox and myself).

The ROTJ issue:

It seems absolutely weird to me to see quite sincere opinions about ROTJ being a *bad* movie. I know, people had to wait for three years between movies, and made up their own SW, which ROTJ didn't fit. But I still think that they've been struck by blindness on this subject, and this is why:

Imagine, if you can, never having seen *any* of the *Saga* at all before 1985. Imagine walking into a theater playing ANH, sitting down and, two hours and some minutes later, standing in front of the theater repeating dazedly to yourself, "What was *that*?" and "This I gotta see again..."

Further, imagine seeing TESB *the next week* at the same theater that was running a revival. Seeing it three times that week, as you'd seen ANH three times the week before.

And then, the week after that -- ROTJ, a stunning ending to a stunning saga; a fitting closing of the circle, ending the mythological story in the only possible way.

This is a true story, and it happened to me. Never mind why I hadn't seen SW before (I was a snotty Science Fiction addict, of the "hard science" school and despised "space opera"). What matters is that, seen without warning, one after the other, with but a week between each, it became apparent that the three movies were a riveting work of total art. That Episode IV was about loyalty, devotion and heroism; Episode V, tragedy and fate; and Episode VI, Redemption, while the whole thing was a mythical morality play of good and evil, depicting the "Passion of Luke Skywalker": a parable that was also a lesson in the Force.

And, of course, that all three movies were one organic whole, and not simply "Star Wars" plus sequels #2 and #3. Anyone who'd seen it for the first time, in succession as I have, would have had no doubts of it, as I haven't.

As for ROTJ's quality... From the horror of Jabba the Hutt and the Rancor; to the sublime scenes of Luke with Leia ("My -- sister has it..."), Leia with Han ("When he comes back -- I won't get in the way"), and Luke with Vader ("Come with me"); to the rousing forest battle and sail barge fight; to the incredible bike chase; to the drama and tragedy of the concluding scenes in the Throne Room (too many scenes to mention, too many elements to quote: the fantastic spacecraft, the Endor forest, the incredible music), Episode VI, *Return of the Jedi*, was a motion picture such as comes by once in a generation, maybe in a lifetime. As so many have agreed...

And as for Han Solo being the object of "character assassination" in ROTJ -- I had a good laugh. For never was Han shown to be so responsible, so mature before -- a better man. Even a hero can step on a branch (just as a hero can lose a hand!) but only a fool would charge stormtroopers with just his blaster, as Han did in ANH on the first Death Star! And nobody spoke of "character assassination" then. Han sure has improved, between ANH when he was a loudmouthed braggart, a chauvanist and a mercenary; and ROTJ, when he has become a responsible part of the Alliance and a loyal friend. Those three years on Hoth next to Luke and Leia, plus the way his romance with Leia developed, surely were part of the reason!

On a totally different subject: the idea of gathering together all the smut, pornography and homosexuality in one publication, strikes me as an idea whose time has come. While you're at it, why don't you also put in those publications the demolition jobs: Luke as a pervert, Han as a murderer, Leia as a traitor. This would enable those who like this kind of thing to know where to find it, and the rest of us could finally relax, knowing that we aren't running the risk of losing our lunch, everytime we open a regular zine.

In commercial publishing that is the situation. There are "special" magazines and the regular ones, where nobody expects to find offensive material. Otherwise, there are protests, even lawsuits! But, for some reason, in SW regular fanzines, we're expected to accept offensive material, and if we protest, are chastised, even ostracized!

I, for one, would gladly contribute money to such a smutzine, so that the others may remain clean. *I mean it.*

I wonder how many others of you think as I do.

To conclude, I'll wish you all the best for the coming winter, and myself some of the snow you so hate but I so wish I had...



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Lookit this -- I made the actual deadline. I always enjoy seeing the photos of fen who made it to MediaWest*Con (sob! boo hoo! More on that later.), but could have done without so many photos of dolls that we've all seen before. I'm also enjoying the influx of male fen and European fen of both sexes. It's giving the fandom another lease on life.

Ming Wathne: I read recently in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* that Lucas is working on the first SW trilogy which should start showing up by the end of the decade and involves young Ben and Anakin. He does, however, fear that the Grim Reaper will get to him before he gets to the final trilogy.

Ming, if you want strong, well-developed (Tim Blaes, stop cackling) female characters, read just about anything by Mercedes Lackey. I've read over 20 books by her so far and have nothing but admiration for her writing. I have a feeling that she did most of the work on the books she co-authored with Anne McCaffrey and Marion Zimmer Bradley, but that the co-authors did most of the work on books she did with lesser known writers. The one she did with Andre Norton has more of a shared feeling. Wonder if I'm right.

Speaking of European fans, a German friend, Iris Schwerin, visited for a few days last week (she's visiting friends up and down the East Coast this month). We visited Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, took a buggy ride around the historic area and bought out four book stores. We also spent hours talking about everything from various fandoms to politics (we've both raving Liberals). Next time she's here, we'll go to South Street which has about ten billion bookstores, record stores (or whatever they're called these days), antique shops and restaurants. Plus, when Iris was in New York City, she stopped at Jerry Olinger's (photo and poster store well known in fandom) and brought me back two lovely photos of Harrison from *The Fugitive*. Happy, happy visual receptors.

Z. P. Florian: I believe that the low-ranking servant of a British army officer is called a batman or, nastily, a "dogsbody". (Pause) Yup, just checked my copy of *British English: A to Zed* and it's right, though "dogsbody" can mean any kind of menial servant.

A. G. Steyn: Giggle, shuffle, blush, yes, my SW series does end up with Luke/Leia/Han as a threesome. And, they go through all twelve Corellians

hells to get there. It hasn't been published yet (the two stories, that is). Of course, it does not have GL's kiss of approval.

Marti Schuller: My biggest reason for thinking that it's a reactor shaft that Palpie swandives into is that when the blast hits Vader face on, you can see what looks like an x-ray of his skull through the helmet. It happens very fast and you have to watch very closely to see it. Steam wouldn't do that. Since Luke isn't that far away, I imagine his baby-making machinery was put out of commission, too. One of my friends thinks that Luke is sterile because it fits the SW universe's mythic structure, and I tend to agree with her. Luke's job is to form and train the new Jedi and Leia's is to pass along the family genes (among other less enjoyable duties) with the help of a certain ex-smuggler.

Debbie Kittle: Two "it's about times" -- I finally got to see the Mata Hari episode on *Young Indy* and we finally got the Science Fiction Channel on Comcast. I enjoy seeing Harlan Ellison being his nasty-nice little self on Sci-Fi (urk) Buzz and getting to see many of the older writers whose books I grew up on (Jack Williamson, for example. There aren't too many First Stage Fandom writers left). As to Mata Hari -- there was a bio of her on A&E shortly after the Indy episode. This was a woman who was not running on all burners. Not only wasn't she as innocent (spy-wise) as some would have it, she also wasn't very bright.

Tammy Olsen: About the time I would have sent for my MediaWest membership, I was informed that the house I live in is going to be sold. Whole families have been stomping through here scaring the cats. Fun. I have a feeling that with today's market, it will be months before anything definite happens, but I am saving whatever I can (including the tax return intended for the con). I am lucky in one respect -- the real estate people who handle the rent said that they would help me find a place when the time comes and that includes the kitties.

Mary Jo Fox: Judith Low put out a zine several years ago called *The Princess Tapes* that dealt with young Leia.

Mary Jo Fox, Tim Blaes, and Carolyn Golledge: All three of you commented on slash writing in one way or another, so I'll respond to all of you. Boo! There are so many slash zines because there are so many slash fen. There are plenty of non-slash zines, too. I enjoy both. Gods, the whole discussion is starting to sound like PhilCon's annual "Is Fandom Dying" panel. Apparently, sf fandom has been dying

since about 1960! Is slash fandom another nail in the coffin? Nah! For those of you who feel that there are too many slash zines -- why don't some of you get together and put out your own non-slash zines? Oh, yeah, I definitely agree with Carolyn that even a slash story should have a strong storyline and, let me add, some character development. Yes, *please*.

Tim Blaes: Hey, I liked *Space Rangers*, too. It was fun. Why do the TV and movie studios that make most of shows and films think that so-called "good" science fiction has to be ponderous. As to *The New Tomorrow People* -- it was on the Irish cable station Nick O'Lodian. (Hey, it's late. This is as good as it's gonna get.)

Maggie Nowakowska: Ah, my blushes. And here I thought you were going to be upset with me for going into any kind of detail about the CoF/CoL controversy. Yes, yes, you may quote me in the history. Just leave out the part where I goofed up the timeline!

Louise Turner, Tim Blaes, and Gerald Crotty: Maybe Yoda wasn't really saying "There is another" meaning another Skywalker, but "an other". If this is so, I nominate Wedge Antilles for Otherness and therefore will worship him at the Oracle of the Other!

Tina Bentrup: I do see parallels between SW and the Foundation series -- especially the Roman Empire aspect. Daneel is my favorite Asimov character, too. I was very glad to see his importance in tying together parts of Doctor A's timeline. And then there's that mutant girl child... Sigh! I guess we'll never know.

Brian Harris: Welcome. I hope that the fact that we women in SW fandom so vastly outnumber you men never shakes your self-security. Hee! Hee! Or, should I say Shee! Shee!? The way I see the Adam and Eve myth is that the Big Guy made Adam, saw room for improvement, then made Eve. Eve was the one with initiative; the one who was willing to take a chance. Adam was a wimp. The fact that Eve was punished for being curious and having the guts to follow through was simply a (at the time) bit of male power play. The myth of Pandora's Box is another example of the same thing. All kind of evils were loosed on the world due to a woman's curiosity. Hogwash. A man or woman who has no curiosity about things they don't know about is dead inside. They may exist, but they aren't really living. Of course, a little caution never hurts. All right, folks, let's all be cautiously curious together! Not only will we learn new things but we may survive the experience. And, if men and women work together, we may live to see the next century.

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Hi! Okay, let's be short. Or use smaller letters.

Taero: Excellent, provocative questions about artists and lawyers in the SW universe. Best SW tabloid headlines contest? The winner is: "Rebel Hero Son of Darth Vader!"

Lybarger: Thanks for the tips on books. Those illos in *Flip*, the naked Hans ... oh! Musta had a hard time keeping the PG-13 angle!

Stevyn: Glad you agree that Han wasn't a saint to begin with. I got the Hungarian translation of *The Last Command*. Chewie is "Csubi", a very good name!

Schuller and Campbell: Okay, okay, I'll back off. Owen could have been a nice guy. My parents never hit me and I still had to lie to them about where I was going.

Kittle: Imp playgirls buying fully trained Jedi? Did Yoda teach Luke *those* skills as well??

Wilson: I agree: only badly written female characters are Mary Sues. And I do prefer a "fully functional" Vader, but I also like to explore the other possibility, having him face the most painful loss of all.

Olson: Yes, I liked Lucas' half-sentence about the original Luke, of about fifty years old and tons of children. The 24 sons of my Luke are clones, but his daughter is the result of an almost (hey, it's me!) regular relationship.

More info on the X-Y-Z rated zine: see among "coming soon" in the Marketplace.

Nowakowska: Vader's "drinking buddies"??? Hmm, yes, he couldn't have spent the past twenty years talking only to Palpatine. Wilson has a great story coming, "Balance of Power" in *Tremor* #8, along that line.

Fiorenzo: (F.D.R., I like that!): Bad translation is a European epidemic. In one of the American romance novels I've read the following sentence in the Hungarian translation (honest!): "He threw his horse over the pommel of his sword." I admit, the "hole with a worm" is horrible, but throwing horses??! (The original English sentence was about a guy throwing his leg over the saddle horn and dismounting.) And, yes, I am interested in droid smut.

Anderson: Thanks for the compliment on the doll exhibit, it was a common effort. As for lack of SW art, it sure hurts.

Bentrup: Yeah, I like Leia best in ANH, and I can't stand her in ROTJ. "Run away!" That, from the lady who said Tarkin was "holding Vader's leash."

Malkin: Million thanks for the three little kittens as "Hot Satanic Pussies". You should work for Disney. I could just hear Robin Williams singing about the merits of devil-worshipping among fish skeletons...

Campbell: Piddling against the door of one's cell has nothing to do with manners; the cause of such behavior lies in the lack of water closets in Jabba's dungeons.

Harris: Welcome! I don't know why fandom is mainly female. I guess we females are able to organize our lives so that besides work and child-raising, we still have time to write ... ah, natural superiority. Drooling over some intergalactic posterboy? How would you like a blaster shot right between the eyes? (1) We don't drool; (2) drooling is a natural right; (3) we are talking about art, brother!; (4) don't analyze, enjoy. Get yourself to Lansing and spend all your money on zines. And, no, you don't have to like your relatives, but you have to love your fellow SW fans. All of them, indiscriminately, sometimes grudgingly... Welcome home!

Don't Shoot!

Barbara Anderson
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September 22, 1993

Greetings from 35,000 feet up. Am writing this on an airplane (was the only place I could find in which I would have a few uninterrupted hours!) so if *any* of this LoC sounds silly, rambling, offends or is otherwise repulsive to your person, my defense on the witness stand will state that there was a leak in the aircraft's pressurization system and I was unknowingly subject to oxygen deprivation at the time and not responsible. I'm winging my way down to Florida for a few days of sun and sand. Plan to get off the plane, though, with a sign around my neck that says, "I am not a tourist. Please don't shoot me!"

Embarrassing apologies first to Charyl Perry and Cheryl Pryor. In my last LoC, I had expressed thanks to Cheryl Pryor for sending me some extra SW cards when it had actually been Charyl Perry who deserved the credit. I plead confusion over a plethora of Cheryls, Charyls, etc., at MW this year.

Jacqueline: Of course, the SW universe has

lawyers, except they're called Imperial Negotiators and their bar exam has a section of questions covering the best use of Darkside Force, not to mention scan grid cross examination techniques.

Art in SW: I'm not an artist, but I did want to comment. What is art, is the first thing I asked myself. Webster's has no less than 11 definitions. Art can be clothing, jewelry, art for self, art for others to look at, art to be touched/felt/experienced in one's mind, art to be heard, art to be watched, holos/dance/stage. I believe all forms of art will exist in the SW universe, from the most primitive (like the Ewoks) to that created by pure machine. With all the planets and cultures, art forms would be limitless. Perhaps rather than ask what type of art would exist in the SW universe, one should ask what materials, methods, media and technologies would be available to create art. Then one could speculate, for instance, on the possibility that artists on Bespin are able to sculpt the very clouds in the planet's sky.

Twenty questions revisited: Methinks your humor should win a tongue-in-cheek Star Award. Either that, or attempting to answer/analyze/essay the political/economical/sociological questions you pose with regard to the New Republic would take the better part of the rest of my life, not to mention being taken to task by the editor for too long a LoC. Which by the way, Cheree, makes sense to me. I confess to skimming over a lot of the literary and historical quotations, anyway, finding the original thoughts and ideas of the SW fans much more interesting.

Ming: As for an all sex-rated SW zine (I imagine George shuddering somewhere, feeling as if someone had walked over his proverbial grave), this would get boring very quickly if it were just sex scenes. After all, there's only so many ways that A can be described as going into B. It becomes mechanical without a plot, just a physical act without the anticipation and build up of emotions to carry the reader along with the involved characters. There needs to be a story with it, a stage to be set. Actually, there are a lot of stories out there, already written and printed that fit my above criteria. The stories have a feature called an "outtake" and have seen print with implied sex or the sex scene is tastefully (a/k/a "blandly") written, but in the author's private file, shared with a few trusted friends, is the scene in all its uncensored, passionate, asbestos-wrapped, descriptive glory! But without the story, the outtake doesn't fly.

There is also a danger, I think, with a sex-scene zine (try saying *that* 5 times fast!). If one is worried about a Mary Sue label because too much of one's self

is put into a story, think what you'd be revealing in a seduction paragraph. Where, more than in any part of one's writing -- *especially* if it's one's favorite character -- are your innermost fantasies laid bare (so to speak) for all to know? Perhaps for this proposed zine, authors should submit under an alias and only the editor would know who's who. Though, then we might have the editor/author blackmail scenario. (*Joke, smile, laugh ... do not take seriously.*)

Cheree: Thanks for the reply on zine editors. I think editors would make good film producers. One needs to have the same level of energy, the same attention to detail and the ability to do ten things at once while overseeing ten other things and finally delegating the last ten things and it all needs to be done yesterday.

I agree with Z. P., keep putting your comments, if you've got them, in between the lines. They are interesting and usually funny and it must be very frustrating, at times, to not respond or jump into a fray as the contributors do.

A. G.: If the exact measurement you're looking for on Han is his height, it's six feet and one inch of pure heart-stopping, breath-holding gorgeous male pulchritude ... *my* idea of art in the SW universe! (Not afraid of wearing my heart on my sleeve, am I?) If, down in the gutter with Gerald (hey, I've got a time-sharing condo down there!), you're referring to another measurable part of his anatomy (for sculpting purposes only, of course), all I can say is, I can imagine quite a bit.

Marti: NIMGA's ... I like it. With your permission, I'd like to use it in dealing with Mundanes. There's a lot of non-fan Nimgas running around, only they're called Nimwa's (Not in my World) or is that nitwits? Well, obviously of the same sub-phylum.

Debbie: Sorry I didn't give you as well as others credit for the SW doll exhibit at MWC. My information was incomplete and I thought it was Z.P.'s alone. Again, I loved it.

Thank you for all the wonderful information on SW items: books, dolls, cards, newsletters, etc., that you always include in your LoCs. I have this mental picture of you, a humming droid fax machine at your side and a portable phone to your ear, gathering all the SW news and feeding it back out into fandom. It's most appreciated.

Mary Jo: Bravo to you for defending ROTJ so passionately and eloquently. I disagree completely, but admire the courage of your convictions. Would want to have you on my side should I ever need a

defender of a just cause.

Aside from my comments on ROTJ in the last SE, I guess the main reason I didn't like the film was because it lacked two very important qualities, believability and credibility. With ANH and TESB, I came out of the theater knowing, without a doubt, that the SW universe and all its denizens existed somewhere in time and space. But when ROTJ was over, I sat there thinking, "Ah, c'mon." I feel Lucas insulted our intelligence. Take the Ewoks. (*Please!*) Easy to use the furry critters for an example. Nobody, I trust, is an Ewok fan. The premise of a less technologically advanced race beating the pants off the Empire's finest is *not* beyond the realm of credibility or believability. But someone tell me how the furballs managed to cut down all those trees, construct battering rams and log traps without the notice of the Empire, apparently overnight? Or was that just something I should let slide and not be so picky about?

And I don't care *how much* Han trusted Luke, IMO, there was no way Solo was going to let himself be trussed up and carried like a safari trophy (hmm, I have had a few thoughts along those lines) nor let an Ewok get anywhere near him with a flaming torch, intent on making Hanburgers! Han's aberrant behavior in ROTJ had nothing to do with carbon freeze or changing attitude. It was a case of an established character, not kept *in* character by the writers or the creator of the saga. It was alright that he had a lesser role in the last movie, but they could have at least made the role consistent with the first two.

Yvette: Au contraire, Han does smuggle guns, so it says in the Brian Daley books. Granted, it's to an oppressed, enslaved group of alien freedom fighters, but it's guns nonetheless. And yes, Han has a conscience, but it's *his* definition of a conscience, not yours or mine. Personally, I think he did whatever he had to do to survive within the parameters of that conscience. He may have had a pang or two of guilt when he smuggled drugs, but unlike slaves which he adamantly refused to transport and who are given no choice in their fate, those who use drugs, for the most part, do so by their own volition. Who was Solo to act as a conscience for them? If drugs were profitable, he would've carried them. I've even got a story in the works where Solo admits to Leia that at one time he had used drugs in his earliest days after the court martial. My impression is that Solo would've been angry, bitter, vulnerable and susceptible to the lure of substance abuse.

BUT, this is *my* view of the SW universe. Lest I be labeled a NIMGA, *your* view is equally possible,

probable and as interesting to speculate upon. As is everyone's. There's no wrong or right way to view SW and I'm not trying to change anyone's mind here, just sharing my opinions and mental meanderings in response to yours.

Carolyn: As 3PO exclaimed, "Goodness gracious me!" Many, many thanks for the overflowing words of praise for "Trust Fund." Coming from a writer of your calibre, this was high praise from one's peer and I'll admit to a self-generated glow after reading your comments.

I agree with your assessment of ROTJ's faults. You expressed it very well, hitting on major points much more succinctly and objectively than I. As everyone has realized by now, my objectivity swings into the red zone when I discuss this film and my normally demure, genteel speech acquires words like "@*§+@" and "±f%*!"

Fiorenzo: I laughed out loud over your comments on Delta Source. Yes, the Zahn books left a lot to be desired. Timothy seemed more interested in creating his own characters and universe than in writing about George's. Leia, Luke, Han, etc., all seemed to be secondary to Zahn's story. (Anybody ever notice that Zahn seems to be wearing a *Battlestar: Galactic* uniform in the jacket photo?) Here's hoping that the Bantam books are an improvement.

Your comments to **Cheryl Pryor** also brought a smile to my face when you discussed Thor and Anakin, slipping into Nordic prose. Should have a SW writing exercise where we attempt to write scenes from the trilogy in the style of established writers, such as Shakespeare ... "Luke, Luke, wherefore art thou, Luke?" "Hark! What light from yonder Jedi breaks? It is the Force and Leia is the Other." Or Poe: "Quoth the mynock, 'Nevermore'." Or Jacqueline Susann: "Han's lips pressed hard...", etc., etc. Well, you get the idea.

Cheryl Pryor: Tell me you got to see Harrison on *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* where he and Jay had a hilarious discussion about the underwear photo in *Vanity Fair*! Priceless interview. If you haven't seen it, get in touch with me.

Louise: Lead-impregnated underwear has been done in science fiction, in the book *Do Androids Dream of Electronic Sheep?* upon which *Blade Runner* was based. (However, loosely.) The men were running around, well, walking awkwardly, in lead codpieces.

Michelle: Hmm, along with Jacqueline's contest for worst SW tabloid headline ("Jedi Knights and the Force Linked to Scientology!"), there could also be

one for best or worst unintentional story typo... "The *Millennium Falcon* dripped out of hyperspace" or "drooped out." ((**Ed:** Once upon a long time ago, I proofread classified ads for a newspaper. My three favorite typos of all time: "Wanted: Laborers for shit building", "Seeking pubic relations personnel", and "Registered Datsun puppies for sale.")

Catriona: Could the "water" on the floor of Jabba's dungeon be leftover Hutt or Rancor drool? There did seem to be an abundance of the stuff. My guess, though, would be that the lower chambers of Jabba's digs were ill-maintained and it could be blamed on leaky plumbing.

Brian: You're as welcome as can be! Forever let us hold our banner high, high, high, HIGH! You've dated yourself, Brian ... either that, or you've got the Disney Channel on cable, but I don't think they've been running old Mouse Club shows.

Great self-introduction, great attitude towards women and life in this galaxy as we know it. If I wasn't already married and deliriously happy, though he is a non-fan, I'd be tempted to send you flowers and invite you over to view my SW collection! Sounds like it's the beginning of a beautiful friendship between you and SE.

Your comment about being informed that fandom was mostly female echoes a few others. It's not true in the NY area, though. I will admit, and take the verbal lashings for it, to attending some Creation Cons in NYC. It was out of desperation for a fandom experience, however tainted with greed, for a year between MediaWests is just too long to wait. But it always surprises me that the high majority of attendees in NY are male. The dealers (a/k/a thieves, crooks, hustlers, frauds, opportunists, miscreants, etc.) are also all male. I certainly don't mean to imply that Creation is the rip-off it is because of the Y-chromosome. It's just an observation on my part.

Last musings... Has anyone ever noticed, when the stormtroopers rush in to discover Threepio and Artoo in the Death Star comm room, that one of the stormtroopers cracks his head at the top of the door and when they are leaving, he's the only one who ducks?

Will end this with a congratulations to Harrison on the success of *The Fugitive*! Seven weeks in the Number One spot! The movie was everything I'd hoped for and more, and now we have an Indiana Jones 4 to look forward to! Yahoo!

Bye, and remember, don't squat with your nerf spurs on!

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September 29, 1993

Drazh-voiyl, all. (Russian greeting/informal) I hope everything is as well as can/hope to be. (My phonetics)

So much good stuff in this SE. As usual won't be able to cover it all. Firstly, tho...

And I thought the flooding was bad when I sent in my under-the-wire 7/1 letter, ghads. And now a little reprise to further taunt people and land.

September has been a very interesting month especially with the unseen "closing" of two circles originally separate but intertwining through the years as well, with "circumferences" of 10 and 7 years, respectively, as it turned out. And spiraling up actually, to the next levels, rather than a "close."

In September '83, I completed my first SW-art project: a miniature "comic book" (no type), started in July. It was my version of Anakin's "fall" to the dark side, along with Ben and others in the story. And, yessiree, it has a cloud-covered, canyon-laced volcanic Moon! (Fire and brimstone; preacha's would love it) (I like it too :-))

As my longtime friends and SE readers know, it was my love of SW and art that helped me overcome a year plus of "I'll never illustrate again" despairing doom and to start the slow climb back to attempt being the professional illustrator I've *always* wanted to be.

In September '86, I'd hit another "wall." The hopes of submitting my 3rd portfolio to Marvel for one of those occasional on-off full-page illos on SW themes found in the SW comic were dashed when they dumped the comic. I was already to send it, especially after having the "thumbs-up" from a friend's cousin who was a traditional-styled comic artist for Marvel, but still appreciated the less-traditional styles in comic art.

I had just found my first SW zine ... but really didn't have *any* grasp of the national/international extent, creative playground that existed there.

My sis knew the manager of the UN/NGO office and suggested a friend for copywriting a brochure, launching a new project. She in turn called me, since we had worked together on both paid and unpaid projects. I did an illo for it. That was the last illo I did in Rapiidiographs (technical thin-pointed pens) because, having found SW zinedom 2 years earlier, I

was delightfully overwhelmed by the many b/w styles the zines had -- pen/ink, brush/ink, plastic-nib thin pens, etc. Well, I wanted to "loosen-up" out of the fairly rigid physical action using the techpens, and the b/w style I'd been developing in those years since '83. I'd been married to those pens since '69.

Anyone who's seen my '87 and '88 stuff and compares, now sees how much zinedom influenced me. They had me doing more and more bold-lined to full-out black shadows, etc., away from my thin-lined, no shadows style.

Fast forward to September '93 again. Me at the UN attending the tail end of a day long conference surrounding more manifestations of that '89 project, where they were launching a book that collected people's responses for the project. And in the book was my '89 illo from the brochure. Sis said, "You're gonna flip -- it's splashed across two pages!" Oohhh!

I still haven't seen it, but I'm looking forward to that tingly "pinch me" sensation. It'll be the biggest distribution any piece of mine's ever gotten, even though UN books don't exactly get the widest distribution. It's called "Visions for a Better World/Global Cooperation", should you want to try and take a peek at it. (And remember how much my work's improved since then!)

And finally, yesterday I went to THE Society of Illustrators and, putting art and money (\$20/slide entry) where my mouth was, submitted 3 entries to their Annual Competition/Exhibition/Bookfor '94. I'll know the results by next issue.

Some lessons in patience, faith and belief. I see of Luke nodding with a slight smile. (And considering I *almost* got cold feet and didn't want to do it, facing down that demon is a prize in itself.)

SW Realms: All you folks talkin' about stuff I haven't seen. Finally I saw the Luke in Leather, along with the forward about all the books. Have not seen the art cards yet. Did see the cover advance for the next book, an improvement over those ... dull ... Zahn covers.

Ming: Weeell, my folks remember the same 25 years before me, you know, and we all voted the same way. But we both can agree on how much fun your MWC costumes are. What was the color scheme on this SE's photo? I recall two outfits -- a gold/bronzy one and a pearl-white & green one. Am I close? And where do you get the miniaturizer to carry all those "quick changes"? Fun to the speed of light ... and beyond!

The MWC stuff was fabulous! Thanks to all and I await the next installment.

Dollmakers at MWC: Fun stuff. The one I enjoyed the most was the simple stormtrooper and the unfinished Rebellion graffiti. (Had the graffiti writer fled or been shot?) How about Luke and Leia on Endor in the revelation scene? Ah, crank out those Ewok "boardwalks" (heh heh heh). (I can say these things, I was champion diorama-maker of the 6th grade!)

So many new zines emerging ... it's wonderful. Especially having discovered SWzindom during the "lean" years. I can just about do art for only 2 or 3 these next 6 months. Launching my pro career takes precedence. But I am determined to continue ... just need to get this going with cash flowing.

Jacqueline: With so many many cultures in the SW universe, there's probably the whole range from simplest traditional forms to the "latest" high-tech media. "Light art" on Earth is usually considered "futuristic" looking ... it might play a prime spot there. As well as holograms. I love both traditional and modern and hi-tech/computer styles.

A. G.: While you have rational questions about ROTJ and that trap scene ... I liked it anyway. It was funny. I think Luke sensed something about the Ewoks, especially with his training on a rugged swamp terrain. (And I read GL was referring to how the North Vietnamese could out-smart the machinery of the US military.)

Marti: Hi. I always want comedies and parodies/absurdities. Also love those authors who deftly wind in humor within the dramatic plots. NIMGA's? Apt phrase.

Veronica: Glad you made your first MWC. On target with your Mary Sue comments and strong women characters! I've been commenting alike for years. Ever since I started reading those kinds of stories in SWzindom.

Z. P.: How-dee. If I recall correctly (and that's up for debate), Logray married Han and Leia off in two stories, a D'Orazio and a Holmes. And in a Ripley story, rumors were ripe that Luke and Mothma were an item. *cough* While you were out procuring your pelts, who do you think had her portable futon and cache of Seven*Stars lime-champagne in that dusty catacombe (that is, after I bartered for space using Rim Sapphires with Marti already esconced there?).

Tammy: Hi, have camcorder, will travel, eh? What fun! Looking more like '95 for me (although if I do as well work-wise this October as I just did -- at least I could try for the membership and then see if circumstances conspire to get me there in '94).

However, looking at the SE pics just gave me an idea... It wouldn't cost as much and it sounds sweeter by the moment. Maybe at least I could find a public access GEnie and log on at times over the con? All you more computer folks out there, will you kindly educate me on this possibility?

You mean you didn't get the hint from my Luke beach-flavored scene/illo in AS#3? Sure, he had some clothes on but... I still carry that torch (er, lightsaber) and until I found SWzindom, all I knew were Han fans within all-over SW fans.

MaryJo: Those latest DC remarks were not meant personally, but here's the realm where we are on the same side. Liked your Potomac/fireworks/Alliance victory celebration story, very cool. Actually, me and my sis debated hard, being the fireworks fanatics we are, whether to go I-day or that previous Sunday so we could catch the fireworks after the bridge walk ceremony.

While I have some serious quibbles over parts of ROTJ (in the "what they could have put instead if they'd trimmed elsewhere"), the whole throne room encounter between Luke/Vader/Emperor was just stunning in its action and psycho-spiritual drama. And I like Han and don't think he came off idiotic, etc. Among other things, I got to see the matte painting of the Death Star II in sky with Endor/landing platform and Imperial shuttle that Vader walks out of, exquisito! And everytime I hear the lyric from "Zoo Station" ... "ready to let go of the steering wheel..." I always think of Luke pausing and then turning off his mechanical visualizer in his X-Wing flying in the trench.

Within its structure, there were things I enjoyed about *The Last Command*. While I thought Zahn dragged out the throne room confrontation a little, there were some exciting moments ... the visual of Luke fighting against the backdrop of the total real-hologram of the Galaxy ... that was neat. I liked the smugglers. But as Fiorenzo pointed out, Thrawn was revenged "properly" but way too quickly for such a formidable foe! Just there, no full drama...

I have an unfinished "Young Leia" drawing from my pre-fandom days. Best part of *Far Realms Sux* (never saw the first one) were the "letters of outrage" ... chortle, hee, hee. But why, of why ... do I keep craving blue tortilla chips (more practice, Mary Jo!)? Maybe next year, kiddo, with more time and more dinero for SW zine art.

Cheryl: No prep, no "pouff"? Hee hee, interesting. There was a female droid in an ish (the Bothan tapes issue) of the SW Marvel comic.

Barbara: Oh ... those were *your* triffids tying up traffic on the GWB, hey? Sorry to hear of your mother-in-law's situation.

Thank you and *all* for your good wishes to my mom. She's doing fine. Should have said that up top, but I'm half asleep from a busy month.

Brian: A quick welcome! Helooos to Tina, Treene, Mickey, Carolyn, and Maggie, et al. (Yeah, I meant Shetland Islands.)

Thanks for all the nice comments on my I-day extravaganza. Until next time, have fun, be creative and be well...

A SW Event!

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We had a SW event here in Knoxville recently! A one-time Saturday showing of ANH at Easttown Mall for a diabetes fundraiser. Dan and I were in line at 7:30 and already there were people ahead of us. By 10:30, the line stretched all the way past Sears and around the corner! They ended up having to open up three theaters instead of one, and still people were turned away. Naturally, us Bentrups were wearing our SW tee's, accruing much admiration and envy thereby! As we entered the theater, they were giving away posters, but they ran out before we could get one. I asked the person sitting in front of me if I could see which poster it was. When it turned out to be a new-to-me crotch-shot of the Old Locomotive himself, with all his lights aglow, I knew I would crawl, maim, steal, or kill to get it. Fortunately, all I had to do was say, "I'll give you ten bucks for it." That young man will never know what a narrow escape he had.

Seeing the movie on the big screen again was heavenly. The audience (mostly college-age) was noisy and appreciative, cheering as each character appeared for the first time, etc. When Luke said his whiny line about "going into Tosche Station for some power converters", everybody said, "Awwwww..." The scenes of the Death Star and the battle, flying down the trench, etc., were so intense, you just don't get the same feeling watching video. I hope they'll show TESB and ROTJ eventually, but who knows? I got the names and numbers of several folks, most of whom had never heard of the Lucasfilm club, much less fandom. So maybe we can start something here.

I'll keep you posted!

Jacqueline Taero: Glad to learn I'm not the only one who thinks Vader could not remember being Anakin. I picture the Emperor doing a massive post-volcanic mind-rape on the poor guy. But I think Darth would have heard the name Skywalker between ANH and TESB, and would have been troubled without knowing why. Maybe Palpie fed him a few crumbs then, figuring that it was safe now after so many years? And this triggered the conflict that Luke sensed and which eventually led to Palpie's downfall. Delicious irony, indeed.

Ming Wathne: What if Luke had grown up as Luke Lars, and then at some point had been told his real name by Uncle Owen, on condition that he never use that name in public? Maybe they told him that his father had had enemies, and calling himself Luke Skywalker would be dangerous. But Luke would treasure his name, repeating it to himself when he was alone. Then, when his whole world collapses, he throws caution to the winds and begins his new life with his true name. What a triumph it would have been for him to announce, "I'm Luke Skywalker" for the first time ... to the princess of his dreams!

Z. P. Florian: I remember reading somewhere that when they were shooting the scene in Ben's abode, Lucas told Alec Guinness to "act as if he were holding something back" when he spoke the lines about how Luke's father had died.

When am I going to write about Beejay crashing the wedding party on Endor? Only after I figure out what he's doing in an elevator with Luke, Chewie, Spock, a Zornom, and all those other weird folks. Gimme a break!

I think that word you were trying to think of is "subaltern". But everyone knows Vader's helmet, books, hearing aid, etc., were polished mechanically inside his meditation chamber, or by a droid when he was campaigning. He would never let a human do that stuff.

Hey, thanks for that super postcard from Budapest! What a beautiful city, and what a wonderful visit that must have been for you. Hope to hear more about it!

Allgemeine Steyn: Vielen Dank für die Sternkriegenamen auf Deutsch. Aber warum hast du die Name meines Stahlriesenheld vergessen? Bitte, um Gottes Willen, in der nächste Band, ja? Und vergib mir für das Mord deines Zunge. Wie vielen Fehler habe ich gemacht? If I don't know a word, I make it up. Please don't rupture yourself laughing.

Marti Schuller: Loved that photo of you. I know that smile; that's a gen-u-wine MWC smile!

How goes my Vader story, you ask. Well, I've been scribbling stuff in my notebook on and off all summer, and now that fall is here, I plan to sit down some rainy weekend and put it all together. If I do not immediately thereafter throw myself into the pond with the nipping-press tied to my foot, I'll let you know the results.

Veronica Wilson: I didn't realize you weren't an active SE-er (seer?). Your LoC was Most Impressive. I liked everything you had to say about Our Hero, especially your paragraph about his sexuality. The Emperor must have debated, back when he was designing his Dark Lord, whether to "equip" him or not. To neuter him would make him colder, less prone to possible feelings of affection; but then that essential anger and aggression might be lost. It's been awhile since I read Z.P.'s *Anakin*, but I seem to remember she takes the former option. I'm like you, though, give us Vader-fen a break! And in spite of my "Black Stallion" remark last ish, I agree that he would rarely indulge. Have you ever read Joyce Yasner's "Cats in the Dark"?

Tammy Olsen: I'm so sorry I haven't written. I'm always behind. Thank you so much for sending the Vader cards. Are you sure you want to break up your set like that?

You must like to live dangerously. Those comments you made about Han could get you in a LOT of trouble. Do you really dislike him? How come?

Mary Jo Fox: Luke the Wimp, Leia the Bitch, and Han the Idiot. What a picture!



Yvette Ghilan: I smuggled a mouse past customs once. His name was Houdini. But he caught a chill during a long layover at Heathrow and died shortly after we reached the States. We kept his body in Dan's mom's freezer in Delaware until we moved to West Virginia, then we buried him under a cairn of stones beside Chenoweth Creek. He is still there.

I agree, Tatooine was the perfect place to hide the Son of Skywalker; but what do you make of Ben saying, "Your uncle thought he (Anakin) should have stayed here (on Tatooine) and not gotten involved"? That just sticks in my craw. If Anakin had really lived on Tatooine, then that would have been a *very bad place* to hide Luke, yes? Personally, I doubt if he ever set foot on it. Please tell us more of your thoughts on Obi-Wan. He is one foxy character, that's for sure, but nonetheless lovable for that.

Ooooh, what you said about pre-existing beings makes my hair stand on end. Some characters are just so real, they seem to have a life of their own. Or maybe they were just "out there," and somebody picked up on them. Have you ever heard the Judy Collins song, "Special Delivery"?

Tim Blaes: The way I remember it, the title "Dark Lord of the Sith" was not used in any of the movies. Only in the spinoff material and in the novelizations.

Cthulhu a T-Rex? More like a Blob of Glup, I'd say. And, yes, *Jurassic Park* was fabulous!

Maggie: I really like your thoughts about the Emperor. Some ideas I had been playing with were that he was (1) thousands of years old, prolonging his life through the Force; (2) an alien from outside the Galaxy, disguised as a humanoid; (3) an entity like Sauron who was literally an incarnation of evil. But to think of him as a mutation, like the Mule (a mule-tation?) not only is plausible and satisfying, but a relief as well. I really do want the Emperor to be gone for good at the end of SW, and please no clones! Except for you, Fiorenzo, of course.

I'm not sure exactly what it is you're volunteering me for in your letter, but thank you! I have never read *Jedistardarkfalconknight* (though I've seen it at Bill Hupe's table), my knowledge of fannish writing is pretty sketchy, and I'm absolutely terrible at whip-cracking. Other than that...

Fiorenzo: No, dammit, no, I *haven't* seen the Mata Hari episode with Ian the Great in it. Whine!! But I console myself with the thought that Ian and George are still in touch, and maybe, just maybe, they'll be working together again in the near future? To live is to hope... ((*Ed:* Wouldn't it be neat if George got Ian McDiarmid to play Palpatine in the prequels? We could

see how he looked during that time period.))

Cheryl Pryor: About recorders ... what does it all mean? It means Fipples Forever! Hang onto your bore oil, boys, Josquin des Pres will rise again!

Why do you ask *me* where the Black Stallion artwork is? You know very well it's hanging on *your* bedroom wall...

Barbara Anderson: ARRGHH!!! You had to say it, didn't you? "Maudlin, pathetic figure." Just about the time I was getting cooled off and smoothed down after all those Humpty-Dumpty/Uncle Fester remarks a few issues back. Now you've got me all riled up again!! But I'll consider forgiving you if you make a barefoot pilgrimage (dressed in sackcloth and ashes and carrying a lighted taper) to the Shrine of St. Anakin, right next door to the Basilica of Our Lord Vader.

And I haven't forgotten your offer. I'll be writing you soon (well, pretty soon anyway) with some specific questions!

Louise Turner: Yay, a Wedge fan! He surely deserves a shrine. Wayside Chapel of the Great Survivor.

How are you and Catriona coming along on your Sebastian Shaw spy network? I'm still waiting for your report. I have a really basic question: is he still alive?

Say hello to Julie for me. Hope she's doing fine.

Catriona: Great input about Owen and Luke. I had never really thought that out about the dinner conversation. Sure, Owen should have just said, "Never heard of him" and gone on eating his bantha stew. The fact that he didn't (other than for exposition purposes) could show how basically uncomfortable he was with having to lie to his nephew. In the radio version, after Luke says, "Guess I'm going nowhere" and exits, the conversation continues between Owen and Beru. Beru says, "You're not going to be able to avoid that subject [i.e., Luke's father] much longer," and later, "You can't live his life for him." To which Owen replies, "I only wish I could, Beru, I only wish I could."

And I only wish I could go on about the radio shows, but I'm approaching the 4-page limit. Suffice to say that they reveal a *lot* more detail about all the events and characters of the Trilogy. My vote for the Supreme Intellect who controls the destiny of the galaxy: R2-D2! Listen and see if you don't agree.

Finally, a heartfelt *thank you* to all for my Star Award. I guess it had crossed my mind that "Blue Jawa" was eligible, but I sure wasn't expecting to win anything. What a surprise, what fun, what an

incentive to keep writing! Beejay just *loves* his stiffikit and clanky medaille. (Okay, Beejay, you can stop clanking around now and get down to work. Your friends are expecting a second installment, you know.) Thanks again, everybody!

Docking Tackle? Jeepers!

Brian Harris
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Greetings to all! Here it is, one day before deadline and I'm just now sitting down to write what I hope will be a regular installment in SE. Hope you can read this, Cheree. Well, let's get started.

Jacqueline Taero: What art media exists in the SW galaxy? I'd say everything and then some. Think of all the different art forms on our little world, and apply it to the thousand alien culture. But please, don't take the ST way out. Galleries and dentists' offices in SW are probably full of stuff like telepathic Etch-a-Sketch, interactive holopaintings, Stussi moltings and Fefze larvae in plexiglas, maybe even the face of a religious icon on a slice of Kommerkan steak.

Ming Wathne: Luke Lars? Don't think so. Reminds me of the anal-retentiveness of the initials L.L. in those old *Superman* comics. I think Luke could safely carry his father's name living in the hind end of space.

A. G. Steyn: I like that "chain story" idea! The only problem would be in recruiting an editor willing to suffer the headaches of making it *sensibly* fubar. As far as the so-called bumbling about on Endor, it makes for good story-telling. Besides, they most likely needed the exercise after breathing stale shipboard air.

Veronica Wilson: Concerning characters' sex lives, it's safe to assume that everyone's doing it. But do we have to write about Vader's docking tackle, Leia's heavy petting sessions behind the royal palace on Alderaan, or Luke's telepathic incest? Jeepers. I do agree with the idea that some Jedi may have performed willing acts of evil and proclaim themselves as agents of good.

Yvette Ghilan: People will be different, whatever their background. Even the little things like two suns in the sunset, or a race's isolation from others of the same stock will account for a degree of genetic and psychological drift.

Tim Blaes: Right on, man! A SW blooper reel would be a gas. I also saw the expanded version of *Dune*: twice! I missed Princess Irulan's narrative, though. Was she a dish or what? Also agree with the clone scenario regarding the survivors of the Acheron catastrophe and their subsequent appearance years later in the Dark Horse series. Steve Perry's novel adaptations of those stories presented a different solution altogether. Check them out!

Maggie Nowakowska: Considering Vader was a corrupted Jedi and the Emperor's puppet, it stands to reason that he did have the time and opportunity to develop a few friendships. Maybe like the high school jock who befriends the yearbook photographer on "certain conditions."

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: Okay, lighten up on the Zahn bashing. Just as Lucas threw his influences into a blender and came up with the SW concept, Zahn did the same, albeit in a literary sense. Sturm and Drang, for example. And who said C'Boath personally got hold of Luke's severed hand and saber? Vader might have retrieved them with the Force -- it worked for Luke in the Marvel comics, *unfortunately* -- or a maintenance crew could have found them, and had them sent post-haste to the Emperor, who figured they might be handy one day and deposited them in his Wayland storehouse.

Tina Bentrup: The image of Kenobi and Vader dueling in a toxic, volcanic environment makes for a more riveting, dramatic scene than the lightsaber clashes shown thus far in the movies, which have all taken place in boring, sterile, artificial arenas. Points to the Luke/Vader duel in TESB for its -- ahem -- *atmospheric* quality.

Catriona Campbell: Given that Leia was caught red-handed after the *Tantive IV*'s retrieval mission to Toprouwa, she was understandably flustered and tried to shield her fear in arrogance, and made a little slip. Her "diplomatic mission to Alderaan" is just that, since she does represent her adoptive homeworld in the Senate. Just think of the trouble she would have been in if she had successfully picked up Kenobi before Vader's cruiser intercepted her. Even worse, if Kenobi had decided to drag Luke along with him. In any case, Leia was eyed with suspicion as it was, and Alderaan would be doomed, no matter what. The saga would have taken a different turn and not have been satisfying as a movie to the general public.

Well, that's about it this time around. Can't wait to see the hornet's nest I've stirred up with my last letter. Meanwhile, stay calm, there is nothing wrong with my television...

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September 27, 1993

What's doin'? Hope everyone had a chance to escape the "Tatooine" summer! Since poor Cheree's got to type all these last minute letters, I'll keep this one short and sweet.

Marti, Z.P., Matthew, Debbie and All: I've enjoyed following the argument about Uncle Owen's and Luke's relationship so I'll put in my credit's worth. Because of Uncle Owen, Luke was able to accept Han. If you think about it, there are some similarities between the two characters. Both Han and Owen use gruffness, practicality and stubbornness to hide their true feelings. Both are concerned with making a living, but at the same time, they want to make sure Luke doesn't get into too much trouble. They both think the Rebellion is someone else's fight. After being raised by a taciturn, gruff, and good man, Luke would accept Han, knowing that Han hides his true feelings the same way as Owen did.

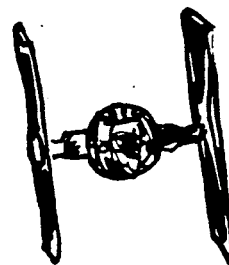
Another thought that's been going 'round and 'round in my brain is this: Why would the Alliance or Empire want to hide the fact that Vader is Luke's father? They wouldn't. Some callous souls in the Alliance propaganda department would come up with a story to feed the press: Son Rises Up to Right the Father's Wrongs! The Empire would reply: The Young Abomination! Both sides would have a field day with it while fighting the propaganda war.

Mary Jo, Tim, Carolyn: I agree with your comments on slash. I guess it's one mystery that will never be solved.

Tina: I haven't forgotten about your letter, I'll be writing it soon.

Debbie, Cheryl, Nora, Mary Jo and All: See you at Farpoint (OctoberTrek)!

I'm running out of paper so I'll sign off. Take care, and keep flying casual, folks!



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Jacqueline: As you know, I agree with you 100% in questioning why Han (and Lando, for that matter) are made Alliance generals in ROTJ. As you point out, the Alliance would certainly have a pool of qualified candidates other than those two and plenty of reasons to choose someone else. Aside from Han's possible carbon freeze trauma, there's a question of experience, which is limited with both men. Lando references a single battle he was involved in. Han possibly has better training -- if you use the non-canonical evidence that he was once in the military -- but it's unlikely that he had reached the point (prior to his court martial) where the next logical promotion would be to general and, at any rate, he's been out of the service long enough to make that experience of questionable value in the present situation. To make those two generals ahead of those who were in line for promotion is weird, to say the least, and probably hell on morale. And while I'm on the subject, why is Lando a general when he's in charge of a space-based, rather than a ground-based operation? Shouldn't he be an admiral?

Veronica: Actually, I think there's a pretty fair foundation for thinking Leia is a virgin. No firm evidence, mind you, but some pretty good hints in that direction -- and that's the way she acts around men, mainly the skittish, nervous way she acts around Han, that speaks of major inexperience. If she had prior affairs, I'd expect her to handle Han's flirtatiousness more smoothly, instead of letting it freak her out as it did, for example, in the corridor scene at the beginning of TESB or when he corners her aboard the *Falcon*. For a lady that demonstrates major confidence in other aspects of her life, she's very tentative with the romantic relationship, which speaks to me of lack of experience.

I do agree the aristocracy in a number of societies tends to dabble in affairs and that could certainly be true in the SW universe -- however, Leia might have been too busy with her revolutionary politics to have the time or Bail might have kept her too surrounded by advisors to make experimentation possible. At any rate, it seems to me that she doesn't have that experience.

I also agree that the films show no real evidence that Han was more than normally into wine, women and song -- he seems to have the normal amount of experience, but there's no reason to think he slept

with anything and everything that moved and, in fact, I'd think rather less of him if he were an interstellar Don Juan. It would show a certain lack of discrimination and, indeed, carelessness if there were some SW equivalent of sexually-transmitted diseases.

Tammy: Well, I really think someone besides Luke did go through pain in the movies -- after all, Han did endure both Imperial torture and carbon freeze in TESB and I doubt that either experience was entirely painless or pleasant.

Mary Jo: Well, I don't mean to "bash" ROTJ as such, but I do have to disagree about it being well-paced ... I think it's the worst-paced of the three. In the other films, Lucas used his creatures and special effects only to advance the story, not letting them drag the pace of the movie, but in ROTJ the plot continually stops for long periods, notably during the speeder-bike sequence and the Ewok battle. True, the Ewoks make a point about technology, but it could've been made in less film time and at less cost to the film's forward momentum. I will say that the Luke/Vader sequences in the film are perhaps worth the price of admission, but I think that it's overall a less satisfying film than ANH or TESB.

On *The Last Command*, I find the Zahn novels well-done on a technical level -- everything fits together plotwise well enough and there aren't any blatant discrepancies with the Saga -- but they're emotionally rather unsatisfying. On examination, I think that's because of the way the main characters are treated -- again, nothing wrong with it, but it does lack that spark that makes the film so special. I think that's because, though there's nothing Zahn makes them do out of character, there's nothing there that advances or changes the characters either, unlike the films and most fan-fiction (which tends to focus on characterization). In the trilogy, Han learns commitment to a cause, Leia learns to appreciate the individual, Luke learns to accept the responsibility of Force-talent -- none of that kind of change happens in the Zahn books (probably because Lucas wouldn't allow it). In fact, the only person who goes through any great character change is Mara, which makes her the (probably unintentional) focus of the books. There's nothing wrong with the Zahn books, but frankly there's nothing very memorable there, either.

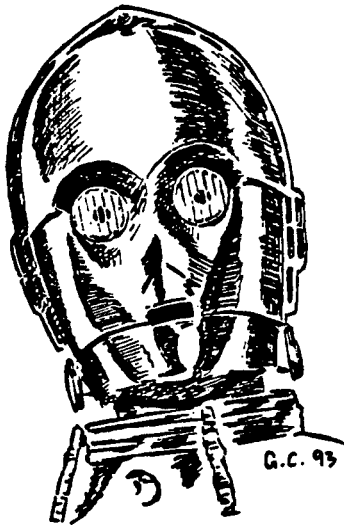
Yvette: Hmm, I think it's kind of a sweeping statement to say there's no paper and no timepieces in the SW galaxy. It would be a strange civilization that has no concept of time and a concept of time usually leads to an attempt to keep time, be it sundials or wristwatches -- and there is a countdown near the

end of ANH which indicates a knowledge of and use of timepieces. Lack of paper seems equally doubtful. Our own society -- increasingly computerized as it is -- seems to be producing more rather than less paper.

I will say a lack of paper might have interesting implications. In the C. J. Cherryh novel, *Heavy Time*, the corporation in charge of Asteroid Belt mining facilities does outlaw paper in an attempt to repress any dissent -- all communication is through computers and datacards and thus can be monitored by the corporation. You could postulate the Empire making a similar move, but it would be a lot more difficult in the far-flung civilization of SW (as opposed to the rather limited world of a mining space station in the Cherryh example). If so, Han Solo could be smuggling paper rather than spice.

On the issue of using invented terms in fanfic, I personally would err on the side of conservatism -- using too many "made up" words is unnecessarily distracting to the reader. And there really isn't too much point to it, except perhaps for atmosphere. For my part, I think coffee should just be called coffee -- leave the strange and exotic words for consumables, objects or concepts that don't translate readily into English terms. Again, I can use a Cherryh book (or rather a series) as an example -- the Chanur novels, which feature seven different alien races, generally uses common words for everything except terms that don't translate easily. And those words are generally used to illustrate or illuminate the alien race that uses them.

Well, enough for this time. Hello to everyone out there and I'll see you next ish.



Ming Wathne
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October 4, 1993

This is not SW but a bit personal. I wish to thank all who sent me letters for good wishes on my operation. They were most appreciated. Am on the mend now and, except for a slight tendency to get tired too soon, back in working order. Also want to thank all those who were understanding for the Library and the next issue of BC (#4). This has been a difficult time and your understanding and patience is much appreciated.

Now! Congrats to all who participated in the Star Awards.

Had the great opportunity to go to the WorldCon (for once in my part of the world). San Francisco is a great place to visit, but it was cold. The convention center is large, so you did not feel stifled even with 8000 people there. Not much in the fanzine line, but quite a nice selection of SW goods (yes, I did come home with some). Three outstanding moments was a talk with Martha Wells (she has already sold her second book and it is not even finished yet), meeting old friends who used to belong to the Santa Barbara Fan Alliance and have since moved, and meeting the contingent from Australia who want to host a World Con. Turns out they were old friends from the last Aussie Con, which I was able to attend. We had a great talk. Two of them were costumed as Officers of the Empire. One of my roommates is as much a SW fan as I am, so we really had a great time.

Hey, Cheree, the Bulletin Board and This Day in History are great ideas. They are of more help than you could know to both the Library and historians of SW.

Jacqueline Taero: Not being an artist, I think the sketch item of choice would be something like an electronic Etch-a-Sketch. Something that gives the artist free choice of line, yet is small enough to carry and could record for later retrieval.

As for the survivors of Alderaan who were off world, under the Empire I do not think there would be too much confusion, as political entities do what is best for themselves. I believe it would be something like this. Those who were off world or their legitimate heirs who had proof of their identity would have no problem. On Empire worlds, if this proof was lacking, the Empire would take over, no questions asked. On the non-aligned worlds or the corporate

sector, the local government would take over and probably keep the holdings in guardianship, until proof of owner was produced (much as The Bank of England did for the Russian Empire holding).

As for Kenobi and Anakin in a volcanic area, there are any number of possibilities. Ship malfunction (it did happen to other ships besides the *Falcon*), Skywalker trying to lead Kenobi to Palpatine, etc. It still seems unlikely, but given the situation of one chasing the other, it was possible.

Z. P. Florian: What is the Force? Ben called it an energy field and I think that is the very best description. Most of what we are able to do physically depends on energy. What we do with that energy is both unconscious and conscious. We breathe and think (class this as unconscious), we pick up rocks and strangle people (conscious). All of these were exemplified in the movies.

Wanda Lybarger: Teachable art. Awww, Wanda, yeah, if you are willing to spend 900 years maybe. I still think my stick figures would look like stick figures, even after all that time. As for fear of flying -- sigh -- it is getting to be an axiom, if you are on a plane with Ming, it will be late, or something will happen and they will need to change or the weather will be bad, we can't take off. These have all come to be known as Mingisms. The last one was really a butt. Plane loaded, looks like we would get off nearly on time. Then -- the Mingism struck again. A plane completely loaded and waiting for -- the pilot! His plane was an hour late!

A. G. Steyn: I enjoyed your visit this summer. It is really nice to have fans come and visit. I agree with you that Yoda and Ben separated Anakin from Vader. This is the same problem some families have separating a loving, caring father from the prison camp commander who committed all types of atrocities. It is probably why Luke and Leia were hidden from Vader in the first place. Yoda at least (knowing some of the future) would have known that the sentimentally-inclined Luke could never be enlisted in their cause, against a loved father.

Marti Schuller: Not in my galaxy! I like that! Both the good and the bad of SW is the fact that we all have our own ideas. You have those who think of Luke as the glory of the Universe, and those who wonder how such a wimp could ever become a hero. Some think of Han as a freighter bum, others as a man who had the cards stacked against him and is doing his best in an unfriendly world, and you have all measures in between. As a writer -- we can all write what we see -- if you do not like it -- don't read it. As

for x-rated Vader stories -- try reading #3 of the Swedish *Dark Lord* series. I believe it is called "The True Force."

Debbie Kittle: I hereby banish you to Hoth. Snow -- a nasty four letter word. Well, I guess I can understand to a certain degree though I am the original hot weather kid. The continual down of bombers flying fire retardant to the fire areas have gotten to be a most continuous thing. I like hot weather, but I have a difficult time dealing with nit heads who smoke in forest areas. Especially when the weather is hot and the winds high. Things are better now, but the eye irritation from smoky air is annoying. We can just thank the gods that at least as of this date no homes or lives have been lost.

I also picked up the Screamin' Han, Vader, C3PO and Yoda at a somewhat better price than you did, but I am almost afraid to try and paint them. Not handy in an artistic way.

As for the unprintable, er, garbage stories, find someone to make a zine of them. I am sure there is enough interest for at least one zine. But by the gods, if they are going to be done, let there at least be enough story material to make a reasonable story -- not just jumping from sex scene to sex scene with nothing else to hold it together. To be truthful, heavy R or X rated material is just generally very bad. Describing 16 ways to maintain a sexual position is about as interesting as describing a 23 course dinner. Neither one really has much story value.

Jennifer Moore: Some of the credit for the SW panel goes to Wanda Lybarger for some of the ideas. With her background as both author and artist in the SW universe, she had some really good ideas of things the SW people should try and discuss and put together. It was really great working on them.

Mary Jo Fox: I can sympathize about wanting the heroes to be heroes all the time. But could they really? They are involved in a war. A very nasty thing indeed. We want to think of our heroes as heroes, but they killed people. We tend to think of all the Imperials as bad, but were they? In reality, our heroes would sometimes be light gray rather than white, and probably upon occasion dark gray, if not black. This makes our heroes more human, if not always more likeable. If you want a more graphic story about this and a real tear-jerker, I suggest you look up a story called "Honor Binds Me" by Anne Elizabeth Zeek. How do you relate to Han in this situation? Do you hate, feel sorry for or applaud his decisions? It is one of those stories that makes you think!

Tim Blaes: As our local TV has not locked in all its stations yet, we really do not know what we will be seeing this coming year. If past experience is any outline, it will be next to nothing. The new additions leave a great deal to be desired. When a local political program airs outstripping the general programming, you know it is bad, so will not know if we will be getting any of the SF stuff next year, but hope does spring eternal.

Carolyn Golledge: It should not be so surprising that ROTJ seemed to descend to an Ewok children's movie. If you look at the material Lucas has done, there is a trail of almost childhood worship apparent. If the Han we see in the last movie had been portrayed that way in the first, I rather doubt it would have been anywhere near as successful as it was. If Ford was not happy with the Han of ROTJ, it is wholly understandable.

Maggie Nowakowska: Now what if the stick had been covered with pine needles? Anyone who has ever been in a pine forest knows that dropped material can get covered with needles and you can't see them. And even the most careful person could step on a hidden branch without realizing it.

I agree Han never negates the existence of the Force, only its ability to control individual actions. Han takes complete responsibility for his own actions. He would not be one to say "The Force made me do it."

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: Ah, you are not the only one who wondered what universe Zahn was writing about. Certainly not the SW I know and love. I really have the idea that Zahn simply ran out of steam and had to do something to get rid of Thrawn. My problem is it did not happen soon enough. Like at the end of the first volume. As for the two sides of the conflict being both good and bad -- well, every political entity is that. The only difference is degree. The good political lets the individual have as much freedom as possible without impinging on another individual's freedom or choice, but there is where the conflict comes up. Who makes that decision, and how much must one person's freedom be limited in order to insure the freedom for another? We are still fighting that problem here. Probably the largest difficulty to settle will be the health insurance question here. How much would I have to give in order to insure another's access to a health program? The fight we will see in the next year will make the civil war look like a tea party in comparison. And every political entity would have to face that type of problem on a galactic level. How much could they

interfere in local government, in religious practice, in social practice. Easy enough to say let each world follow its own path, but what if that world believed in slavery, physical disfigurement? Human sacrifice? Cannibalism? How much could the Alliance interfere? I think that is a neat little problem.

Barbara Anderson: Dust bunnies under the bed? Do they breed? Mine do. What drives an editor to put out a zine. Hmmm, not addressed to me but I'll answer anyway. Challenge, lack of common sense, wanting to see if I could do it. Probably the astonishment of the material different authors come up with. Just being able to say, "Hey, I did it!" Hell, how should I know why? I just like to try something new and different and learn. That is why I like to do it. Cheree's ideas are different from mine, and I am sure every editor would give you a different answer.

I love your overview of ROTJ. It follows mine very closely. The 2x4 idea was not too bad. It came too late to rescue the movie from its more basic faults. (I still like it.)

I think that you will see more SW art in the future. That end of SW renewal has not caught on yet.

Louise Turner: Radiation a problem. I do not think so. Just as we have learned to use protective skin creams to counteract ultraviolet sunburn, we will probably in the future learn control of at least some types of radiation and it is almost a certainty that beings who have had space travel for 1,000 years or more would have developed some very, very elaborate controls or protections.

Michelle Malkin: I do not agree that Han would smuggle something he did not want to smuggle, even if Jabba threatened him. Han was an independent mercenary calling the shots on what he would or would not carry. Sort of like the independent hit man of our outlaw society.

Catriona Campbell: Poor Uncle Owen. Because he was not giving in to a muzzy-headed 20 year old, he was considered harsh and uncaring. Owen could see Luke's weakness and wanted to keep the kid alive until he grew up enough to learn control. Yoda saw exactly the same problems, but his treatment and lessons were never thought of as harsh.

Brian Harris: Hi and hi -- you have taken the first steps into a fascinating world.

Enough. Need to get the library zines ready to send...



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September 9, 1993

Another great issue of SE. I loved all the pics from MW. Brought back some nice memories. Saw *The Fugitive* with Harrison Ford twice now and what a great movie. He and Tommy Lee are absolutely terrific in it.

By now, most everyone knows that NPR is replaying the SW shows on the air each Sunday at 7pm. It is so nice to hear them. ESB should be on in October so check your radio listings in the paper.

Everyday I'm thankful to the Sci-Fi Channel (SFC). In July, they had the Trilogy on as well as *The Making of SW*, *The Making of TESB*, *The Making of ROTJ* and *The Making of the Trilogy*. I didn't have the first 2 so it was exceptionally nice to record them. As an added bonus, Carrie Fisher hosted the Trilogy and she gave us insight into different scenes. She was in a room that was decorated with props from the movies as well as some of the new toys.

Some of the things she mentions are: In SW -- She considered herself the Pillsbury Doughgirl and tried to lose 10 lbs but only 5 came off and not off her face. She didn't complain about the buns because she was afraid they'd get rid of her due to the weight. The greatest challenge to Carrie was all Leia's formal dialogue. Harrison got to ad lib a lot because his character was more contemporary. Dave Prowse's nickname was "Darth Farmer". Han Solo was the best character in the movies and Harrison was the luckiest one of all.

On ESB -- This is Carrie's favorite movie as it's the most spiritual. There are "clearly defined choices between childhood and adulthood, between selfishness and responsibility and between good and evil." Leia's character deepens. If you want to irritate Frank Oz, just ask him if he meant Yoda to sound like Grover. Sir Alec liked Yoda. If OWK didn't want to say some of the preachy dialogue, he'd say "Why doesn't the little green thing do this one?" She hoped many of us viewers were watching with their own kids as we were kids ourselves in 1977 and 1980.

On ROTJ -- A couple of jokes went around the set. How does an Ewok get across the road? Ewalks. What does an Ewok have in his ears? Ewax. The people in the Ewok suits were familiar to Carrie from *Under the Rainbow* "and if you didn't see it, thank you". Nien Numb's character has a line that is said in

the language of Kenya. They get excited when they hear it. It translates to "Attention! You over there. Come this way". She'd be happy to be a part of the next trilogy. Carrie even mentions QVC because she could envision Leia on an entire shopping planet.

These were just some of the comments. I did enjoy watching it and Carrie's added quips made it even better.

Onto the letters: Z.P.: I can't see the DS having a "black box" but I can see them transmitting to a computer somewhere on a rather routine basis, maybe "Imperial Central". However, when Han, Luke and Chewie crash the prison block to rescue Leia, they do a lot of "surveillance equipment" damage. Han also blows up the comm device on the console. It's very likely he destroyed or severely damaged any monitoring equipment in the cells.

Jacqueline: "Best tabloid Headlines"? Z.P. should be editor-in-chief. She's good with those. Though in *Southern Lights* #5 by Annie Wortham, there's a story of Leia on Earth and she gives up a 1/2 Wookiee-1/2 human child (hers and Chewie's) and the child is later called Vincent. I thought that was rather interesting.

A.G.: I liked your explanation re: "killing Vader" not Anakin.

So far, SFC has not run *Galactica 1980*, only the original *Battlestar Galactica*. I loved that episode with Starbuck and want to VCR it. I do have it on audio tape. That's all I had back then.

Finally got a chance to see YJC with Mata Hari. I enjoyed it immensely and thought it was delightful. I didn't realize the old man was Palpatine until he said a certain line a certain way and I said "It's the Emperor!" I rewound that part of the show and watched it over, knowing who he was. He looks good without all that make up.

Marti: Isn't winter wonderful!! And it's just around the corner. Hey, I was never normal to begin with! People give me such odd looks when I tell them I'm waiting for winter. Most folks hibernate in the winter but I hibernate in the AC'd house and office during the summer and play in the winter. Hope you enjoyed your 13 inches! I wonder how much I'll get this year. With the horrendous heat/dry spell, it could go either way.

Tammy: By the time you read this, you'll have gotten my letter and the pic I took of you, Tina and Marti. I know you'll enjoy. Hopefully, we will get to chat next year in person.

You thought it was nice that Han got backhanded? That someone should feel pain aside from Luke? Does carbon freeze not qualify as pain infliction?

Being a Han fan doesn't mean I don't care for and respect Luke.

Matthew: Yes, you can usually tell a cat household by the shredded furniture and the cat hair on all the best seats in the house.

Jennifer: I'll be making 2 tauntauns and a wampa for the next doll exhibit. I had fun (most of the time) making Mytee and as soon as I finish the Jedi outfit for the Luke doll, the wampa will be started.

That letter of yours was too long?!?! Not compared to some of us!

Mary Jo: Agree with you wholeheartedly re: comments on ROTJ and the character portrayals. Well said! I also liked the Zahn books. They could've been better but I didn't think they were horrible (only the kid's books rank there). The spy mystery was a total letdown. I was so sure it was Winter.

I'd love to read the winner of a "Bad SW Story".

Yes, loved Harrison on YJUC. I believe he was doing *The Fugitive* at the time, that's why he had the beard.

All the kid's books were OK. #6 was the end so it was not bad. I did not like Ken -- in fact I picture the Ken of Barbie and Ken fame. An embarrassment is right!

Tim: MW slow? Not for me.

I didn't lose power during the storm but cable was out for a few hours. Didn't bother me -- I was outside most of the time anyway! I'm just glad it came back in time for YJUC.

See my response to Z.P. re: surveillance in Leia's cell. No, I don't believe DV knew he had a son.

Maggie: Loved your interpretation of Han.

Fiorenzo: Loved your description of the Delta Source "plant" -- a major disappoint on that part. I find the book flawed but I guess I'm easy to please (on most things).

Gee, didn't you like TLC? Only kidding!

Interesting points about the DS scene with DV, OWK's cloak and Luke, Han and Leia. I'll have to watch it again with that in mind.

Cheryl: Another great title above your letter. "More Glorious Than Ever"?! Do you bribe Cheree?

Would you have had time to put the tapes in your utility belt between fighting Kenobi and prepping for the battle?

"How's CB? Is he being cute and cuddly? Or maybe sweet? You know there are some beings that would like to delimit CB with a UCT or even tron him. He might become less boring and I know that would be devastating." You know where to decode

this.

Barbara: I got the Han Solo Screaming Model for only \$45. If you're interested from where, drop me a note. I actually look forward to putting on the paint -- each and every brushstroke!

Yes, I wanted snow. I'm responsible for it! *It's my fault!* I'll gladly take the blame -- throw snowballs at me, please! I talked to the Hoth elves and they gave me the snow -- in fact they went overboard but I didn't complain. And in return, I have to suffer through the Tatooine elves' revenge -- a horrible summer (one of our worse on record). The only negative part of a huge snowfall is shovelling and I did it all. What I wouldn't give to shovel more!

Look forward to your "Trust Fund" sequel.

Also loved your additional religious classifications. Really good.

Tina: Great snow story -- getting snow dumped on me would be ... wonderful.

Agree with you about the SW and ESB Radio shows. They are a gold mine. Heard them for the first time a few months ago and have been enjoying the replays.

I love the additional stuff put in and was quite surprised to hear the torture scene in SW. However, in ESB, the character of Leia still seems cold when she's supposed to be falling for Han.

Treena: If there were some sort of "emergency" on Alderaan, I guess she could be going home for a diplomatic mission. Maybe she meant to say "We are on a diplomatic mission for Alderaan".

The vision your words of "Chewie widdling against the door of his cell" conjured up sent me into spasms of laughter. Working in an animal hospital, I've seen dogs urinate in some strange positions. Besides, Han probably would've smelled it the minute he came in unless his sense of smell was damaged or Chewie's urine has no odor. ((**Ed:** *Maybe that's why he asked, "Chewie, is that you?", being familiar with the odor of Wookiee wee-wee...*))

Perhaps Jabba's dungeon is far enough underground to hit the underground water supply. If not, he's one rich gangster. He can afford to throw around some water for the hell of it.

Brian: Welcome to SE!

Nice to see new "faces" every issue.

One last thing: got a chance to Patrick Stewart at a con. He put on a really good show. A very nice man.

If anyone is interested in getting the SW chess set, the address is: The Danbury Mint, 47 Richards Ave., Norwalk, CT 06857. There is a production delay until

October so by the time this SE comes out they shouldn't be that far ahead. The pieces are \$20 each/month. What I find interesting is DV and Luke are Bishops and Yoda/OWK is the King. I figured Luke and DV would be Knights. From the picture (I only have a xerox), R2 and 3PO are the rooks, Han and Luke are Bishops, and it looks like an AT-ST is a rook for the other side.

Hope everyone had a nice summer (yeck!) and am looking forward to Fall (which, of course, leads to Winter!). Take care all. Fly Casually In The Force!

Insurmountable Obstacles

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September 7, 1993

You horrible, sadistic people! Sharing all these reminiscences about the fun you had at MediaWest! Spare a thought for those of us who had insurmountable obstacles (i.e., the Atlantic Ocean!) which prevented us from joining in the fun. At least we tried to make up for it. Anne-Virginie Dutech, Catriona Campbell and myself spent two days in the summer exploring the Neolithic tombs of Argyll, and the area around Glencoe, respectively. And then there was the weekend Catriona and I spent in London ... sharing such diverse escapades as seeing the great Denis Lawson drop his trousers on-stage during a musical called "Lust" (and, oh, boy, he might be in his forties but he is still a sexy beast!), and attending a concert by the one, the only, the indomitable Depeche Mode! And they played all our favorites! "Flies on the Windscreen" and "Halo" for me, "One Caress" for Catriona... What a weekend. Then, only a few weeks later, SW came to our cinema for one day, followed by the Indy trilogy the following week, followed by SW *again* the week after. Catriona and I clocked up three showings altogether of SW, although we found the adventures of Commander Noddi hard to swallow at times (will you tell them or will I, Catriona?).

And I would like to formally submit my application for the post of High Priestess of the Pagoda of Antilles. Tim Blaes, I love you! You are quite, quite

right. Wedge is the unsung hero of SW (though I feel there was a slight tinge of irony in your words...). And may I say a collective "hello" to everyone who said "hello" to me last time. Pleased to meet you -- it's great to "talk" to all those people who were either names I'd encountered through Catriona or labels attached to stories!

Without further ado, I'll turn quickly to the subject of Romans, those guys I love to hate! Though I have to hastily add that I'm by no means well-up on Romans. My interest is before their time, so to speak, and my only real encounters were through general courses in my early university days, and some slightly more detailed stuff later on. Coming from an area which was right on the Roman frontier means I am all too aware of the military aspects of Imperialism, and also of the way in which art and architecture were used to remind the common folk of who was in charge. Veronica Wilson's reminder that empires encourage economic dependency is highly pertinent, and I suppose we must remember that, for many people, it isn't really a matter of who's in charge. If freedom means that the kids'll have to do without supper because the economy has collapsed, then there's not many in their right minds who'll be too thrilled by that prospect. Or likewise, if the Emperor's dead and the regime's collapsed, then the majority will shrug their shoulders and say, "oh, well, let's hope this lot can do things better than the last ones did." And I should think that the ruling classes (in Roman times the chieftains and aristocracies of the conquered regions, in a SW context, planetary governments and business corporations) will be quick to switch allegiances to the winning side. As soon as the Alliance turns the tides in the war, it'll probably find a whole lot of formerly unknown allies are suddenly rooting for victory. I have no doubt that life for your average citizen is safe, secure and reasonably prosperous under the Empire. Just so long as they watch what they say! For those who play by the Empire's rules, life could be very lucrative, and the views of the impoverished underdogs are probably disregarded anyway.

Speaking from my limited experience of empires, I have to admit that when I spent a week in the Soviet Union in 1986, I found it an incredibly safe place to be. There were militia officers quite literally on every corner, and what must have been symbols of oppression to those who lived there meant that the vices we find so prevalent in capitalist societies such as mugging were an unlikely occurrence. So saying, when some friends of mine stopped to talk to some

native Muscovites, they were followed by a pair of militia officers right into the hotel foyer. These officers proceeded to wander over and talk with the reception staff, and, not surprisingly, my friends were very nervous! Nothing happened in the end, but it shows how those in authority can use their power to intimidate even in apparently trivial situations. I think my experiences in the USSR helped shape my interpretation of what life in the Imperial-ruled galaxy must be like. Gigantic hoardings reminded the populace of how good the state was to them, and of course there was the personality cult of leaders past and present. Not so different, I suppose, to the Roman situation, where civic architecture was donated in provincial towns by the local Roman governor, and where the cult of the Emperor was encouraged, and in some places, the Emperor elevated to almost divine importance.

And I think that perhaps this parallel with Eastern Europe and the communist empire was shaped by ideas on what would happen after the collapse of the Empire. We were told once that very often an empire seems to rely on the driving force of its leader and figurehead. Not so applicable in the Roman situation, where they succeeded in continuing the line for several hundred years, quite possibly by their continual drive for expansion, but most certainly true of the Huns. A friend also reminded me that the Empire was a very young regime -- the underlying social structure will not have been transformed too greatly in the space of twenty years or so, and perhaps we should not forget that. I see a situation where there is a great deal of fragmentation occurring, and perhaps a more conscious adherence to that obscene "N" word: nationalism. My thoughts were heading in this direction before Eastern Europe fell apart, and I've watched events unfolding there over the last few years with a sense of gloomy premonition. From the joy of seeing the Soviet army rally to Yeltsin's call in Russia after the coup and the toppling of the Berlin Wall came the situation we see on our television screens now. People don't want to lose power and privileges, and if they can't get it legitimately then they'll get it any way they can. Returning to a SW context, I can see the core holding together. There the more civilized souls will be prepared to transfer power for the sake of a quiet life, but the Outer Rim's more of a problem. Lots of scope for power-hungry opportunists and displaced Imperials to seize a slice of territory in the chaos that ensues. For the first few years, at least, the Alliance will have its work cut out organizing the more central territories. But in

response to Jacqueline Taero's suggestion, I don't see a Dark Ages ensuing, because communications networks are so good. Maybe this kind of situation might occur in Outer Rim worlds, though, which are more easy to overlook.

Tina Bentrup: Since I've just been blathering on about Romans... The textbook I was referring to was, I believe, *The Sources of Social Power*, Volume One, by Michael Mann. Alternatively, let me know if you want me to copy my lecture notes and send them through to you. I can't speak Latin: my experience is in the Asterix league, too. And when you and Fiorenzo mentioned Tarquinius and Palatine, I suddenly remembered that the connections are quite plainly there (and the Emperor declares that an "entire legion" of his best troops is waiting). Yes, I'll join your Seb Shaw spy network. Except I don't watch much TV these days, and I think he's more of a theatre man, isn't he?

I can accept your reminder that George is presenting us with a myth and not a novel. I think my problem is that I *have* grown up! I like to see the Saga as myth or even history, set down by the winning side and where the characters have been translated into archetypes. I like to think that I write in the science fiction (as opposed to fantasy) universe which generated this myth/history. Consequently, I like to see things from the Imps' point of view at times, and I have to admit that the gung-ho style of individual heroism seen in SW often leaves me cold. That's why my concern is more with fighter-pilot/hangar crew culture, because I like seeing things from the point of view of those who fight as a team. My allegiance to George has faded slightly since West End Games' products came out. I feel a little cheated that he has put his universe "out to tender" with such disappointing results. I spent years trying to keep my work as closely within the established canon as possible, but now I'm heading on a diverging course, steering well away from the official material.

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: Thank you, thank you, *thank you!* Now I do not have to read that drivel penned by Timothy Zahn. I read your synopsis and found it: (a) more entertaining, (b) better written. That book is the first book I have ever been unable to read on a long train journey. I got to page 3, and decided that staring out of the window feeling agitated and irritated for 5 hours and 23 minutes was infinitely preferable to reading it. In truth, I'd have expected better from a Hugo winner. I just wasn't convinced by the characterization, I'm afraid, and felt the technology was given better attention by the author than the charac-

ters who used it. The style, too, left a lot to be desired, again a criticism which a Hugo winner should surely not be guilty of. Now, if they'd only gotten C. J. Cherryh to write these books instead... One rather amazing touch I noticed on a quick flick through was the return of Hobbie, who's done something of a Lazarus trick since he supposedly nose-dived his snowspeeder into an AT-AT. Impressive, or what? ((*Ed: I bought this book in May. I have finally, after three tries, managed to make it through Chapter 1. Gee, at this rate, I should be finished with it around the turn of the century...*))

You have a character whose theme is "Cursum Perficio"? Well, I have a character whose theme is "Halo" by Depeche Mode, although he would smile cynically and suggest that "Alladin Sane" by David Bowie is more suitable for him. He's one hell of a mixed up kid. Isn't it weird how we use music to gain inspiration for writing, and how different songs can come to represent different characters, scenes, etc. The project I'm working on at the moment has been inspired almost entirely by Depeche Mode, so any of you Depeche Mode fans out there can probably guess what that means! There is much angst and soul-searching on the part of the anti-hero, to put it mildly!

Mentioning Depeche Mode brings me back to Veronica Wilson. Just noticed from your LoC that you're studying for a "PhuD". "Good luck, you're gonna need it!" Only joking! I'm supposedly writing mine up just now. Strange how I can regurgitate several thousand words of SW fiction a night, and yet find writing five hundred words of theoretical archaeology the equivalent of getting blood from the proverbial stone.

Marti Schuller: Hello, Marti. You've heard a lot about me? Ulp, I wonder what that means! Well, I've heard a lot about you, too... It's good to be here, and I hope we can get to know each other better in the future.

Yvette Ghilan: Sexism and the Alliance... Unfortunately, basing one's theories entirely on what we see in the films distorts the picture somewhat. In SW, Leia is the token woman. Even the com operators on Yavin are men! So who says Luke got laid after the Battle of Yavin? There was only one woman available on the entire base! In TESB, things are a little better. We have female com staff. Wow. Big deal! ROTJ, however, is a major improvement: there are pilots, techs, politicians and a president. So I think we can assume that the SW universe reflects contemporary thought at the point of filming, which perhaps implies that the Age of Female Emancipation in our own

culture is on the verge of dawning (ha ha). I think, as you say, it was the SW universe that influenced the situation in ST:TNG. Women in the Classic ST leave a lot to be desired...

In the years I have been writing, I have created a number of female characters, and I would say that all of them are strong. They have to be. They are fighting in a war, and living in an often uncivilized galaxy. They have to be strong! Besides, I can't abide weak, simpering women. My "universe" has expanded into the realms of space opera over the years, with so-and-so winding up with someone else, and whatshis-name pairing off with her, and so on, and so on, ad infinitum. I'm afraid, though, that Luke does not end up with the strongest of my females -- although he has had one or two short-term liaisons with her. I hasten to add that Wedge does not end up getting her, either, before I hear cries of "Mary Sue" hurled in my direction! Luke's girl is strong, but she hasn't had much of an opportunity to show her strength yet. She joins up after ROTJ and some day I'll get around to writing her story. Right now, all she's had in my universe is one or two appearances in the novel I'm working on at the moment. Veronica suggested that Mary Sue's are supposedly domesticated little sweethearts who reform these wayward men who become ensnared by their charming naivete. Well, if that's the case, then none of my women are guilty. They can repair x-wings, in some cases fly them, talk politics, even kill people, etc., but none of them are happy to play "house". The nearest they'd get to good housekeeping is programming the "hubbledibubble." (Will A.G. ever hear the end of this??) I never thought that Mon Mothma's friend was pregnant: I just thought she had lousy dress-sense! I've had her appearing in my universe, too, though I've never tried to get to grips with her private life.

Barbara Anderson: Thank you for the welcome. Delighted to meet you! Yes, it is exhilarating, isn't it? Only problem is that fandom's a horrific distraction from those other little things in life called work...

Z. P. Florian: Hello, there, Zippy! Oops, sorry. That just slipped out... I hear Catriona is corrupting you to the delights of Wedge Antilles. Loved your drawing of him... The game for the Mac? Well, flying an x-wing with a mouse is kind of fun, believe me. It's pretty boring in terms of graphics, and is largely silent, although there are fragments of speech inserted from time to time. I even heard Wedge give his classic, "Look at the size of that thing!" quote a few times (what was he doing in that cockpit?!) though my machine seems to have censored that line,

and now all I get is Luke saying, "This is Red Five, I'm going in." I'd rather have an IBM with the x-wing game (oh, here she goes again! Shaddup! Shaddup!). And don't worry: I'll let you have first refusal for the fully trained Jedi Knight if he ever comes up for auction. I'd prefer to save my credits up for a dark-haired fighter-pilot with his laser cannon primed and ready... (My apologies for paraphrasing "Lust" here.)

Princess Leia a virgin? I'm afraid I have mixed views on this. I think she is up to SW and probably beyond. Okay, so obviously they'll have better contraceptives there, so maybe the rules aren't going to be so stringent? Up to a point, yes, but I think the attitudes towards sex will very much depend upon your social status. Spacers will have a much more relaxed attitude, because -- being mobile -- they have less property and land to worry about, and perhaps spacers' habits will be a subject of derision and disdain by the planet-bound populations. In most societies, control over women is linked with the division of property. Since women are the bearers of children, those with property or titles have to consider marriage as a contract, and I don't think the SW universe is any exception. Besides, I am convinced that the Empire, and consequently the ruling classes, are very sexist anyway. I don't want to go into too much detail, for fear of using up too much space, but I feel that similar double-standards to those occurring in our own society regarding the place of women will be apparent there. This will constrain the activities of those who are forced to dwell in the public eye, so for someone of Leia's status, life is not going to be one mad fling. Okay, so royalty is renowned for its indiscretions? In our society, such indiscretions rarely stay concealed for long because in a high-tech society, there is an added incentive for exemplary behavior which did not occur in the time of *Dangerous Liaisons*. It is called the popular press. And since the Imperial press will probably be gunning for Leia and her family anyway, then they will have to be very careful. As soon as someone in the public eye does anything unseemly, then out will come the newshounds, baying self-righteously about family values. This is perhaps why Leia has been encouraged to devote her life and her energy into "innocent" pursuits, such as human rights and politics! Perhaps her apparent disregard for individual fulfillment is the result of careful conditioning by an anxious family who do not want their actions and hence their political views discredited in the eyes of the public.

Catherine Churko: Oh, dear. I think my fame goes before me (or notoriety). Well, I've heard of

you, too, so hi! I can send you some British fanfic if you like. There are some classics, and a certain lunatic fringe over here have in fact penned a satire which pays homage to this inimitable genre (no names mentioned)... And hi also to Debbie Kittle (and Mytee, too, for that matter).

Ah, me, the trials and tribulations of SW terminology. Of hubbledibubbles, and coms, and sanis. I'm afraid I have been known to resort to earth terminology. Depends what it is. In my galaxy, the terms "radio" and "com" refer to two different but related things. If your unit switches frequency, it's a radio; if it's confined to one frequency, i.e., specifically targeted as one course of signals, it is a com. So, an x-wing can run a com, from one pilot to a group, but also use a radio, which is less restrictive in what it receives. Or Han will carry a com linked in to a source carried by Luke, for example, whereas a member of the command staff will have a radio which can switch com-lines so any part of the ship/fleet, etc., can be contacted.

I tend to use generic terms for things. I won't use coffee, because it's linked to a specific kind of bean, but I'm happier to use "tea", as it's a general term for an infusion made from leaves. Hot chocolate is a definite no-no. I do have beer (for rank and file) and contrast this with brandy (for officers) and other alcoholic beverages such as wine. Again, these are fairly general terms. Same applies to household appliances. I'm afraid that if a machine is designed to wash and launder clothes, it will probably be called in translation a washer-drier, whatever the culture. And the SW universe is one where names will, I feel, be descriptive in terms of function. Perhaps, to take the argument one step further, we should start writing our stories in Galaxy Standard, since our heroes don't speak English after SW (does anyone else out there have their teeth set on edge when they see the tractor beam controls in SW?).

I think that's enough now, and I shall add one final aside to Jacqueline Taero. You want to see SW tabloid headlines? Well, check out issue #2 of my fanzine *Tydirium* which is hot off the presses. We succeeded in infiltrating the Imperial tabloids and printing a whole 3-page chunk of one!

Nuff said, I think. Cheers, everyone, and don't forget to start saving up for Worldcon in Glasgow, 1995. You have one year, so I expect all of you affluent Yanks to book your holidays in Scotland for that year! Why not change venue and have a Media-Southwest-Scotland Con that year? Okay, okay! It was only a suggestion!

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Hi, everyone. Okay, let's start with the different versions of the SW films that have been talked about. My theory is that there are longer prints floating around. These are probably prints prepared for preview screenings or studio screenings before the final edit was decided. When the films went out on release, I suppose it's possible that these prints were issued as well, either by mistake or because they were the only ones they had left, since Fox would want as many prints playing as possible. However, I reckon Lucas would have had strict control over this matter on TESB and ROTJ. I say this because it's obvious Lucas was sick of the interest aroused by the missing scenes of SW. Notice that the published versions of the scripts for TESB and ROTJ are the same as the movies, whereas the published script for SW contains all the missing scenes. A couple of years ago, Warner Brothers accidentally sent out a preview print of *Blade Runner*. It didn't have the Vangelis score, was without the narration and had an ambiguous ending. This caused so much interest that Ridley Scott put together his "Director's Cut". However, it's not true (as many people seem to believe) that the studio originally pressured him to add the narration. I have an interview from 1982 that Scott gave to *Starburst* magazine in which he says that he wanted the narration but felt it could've been better if he'd had more time. I must admit I was disappointed with Scott's "Director's Cut". I think some of the narration is important and the only extra footage was a few seconds of the Unicorn. ((Ed: I feel the same way about the "Special Edition" of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. The original version was spectacular. Spielberg's revised version with the added footage at the end seemed to shift the emphasis away from how Neary's normal life was rapidly deteriorating after contact with the aliens, to the "gee golly lookit that" special effects. I remain very disappointed in it.))

The "Director's Cut" or "Special Edition" I'd like to see is of *Little Shop of Horrors* with all the giant Audrey II scenes put back in. Still on the subject of "special editions", I saw the extended version of *The Abyss*, 28 minutes of extra scenes. Now that's what I call a "special edition". A lot of the "new" stuff isn't that important, but all the stuff at the end is essential. I can't understand why Cameron took that out.

TOPPS SW Cards: Someone at Topps must have

read my letter in last issue because I've now learned that they're going to publish the cards in a book in a larger format. I just wish I'd known before I bought the card set!

Anakin's injuries: Anakin didn't fall into a volcano, according to Lucas. He fell into a molten or volcanic pit. I assume these are what surround a volcano.

Jacqueline Taero: You posed a very interesting question about what sort of art would exist in the SW universe. I hadn't really thought about it before. I think there would be a lot of art about. The Empire would use it as propaganda like the Nazis did. Lots of classical stuff and superior races ideas. The rebels would exploit art too (no, not the robot). I guess they'd do lots of satirical stuff. As for the media, well, I don't think it would be all techno-holography. The old forms always seem to survive. After all, painting was said to be dead when photography arrived, but it did survive.

A. G. Steyn: I agree with you totally about Han Solo in ROTJ. He certainly was a bôzo. Chewie, too. I can't believe he would fall for that animal trap. I mean, he comes from a similar sort of planet and culture to the Ewoks (although the Wookiees watch more TV if the SW Holiday Special is anything to go by!), so he'd be the last one to fall for it. I do think you're being unfair to Luke, though. He does try to stop Chewie, after all. And he allows the Ewoks to "capture" them because he knows they'll meet up with Leia.

U.K. Dark Horse SW Comic: Finished with #10 due to lack of sales.

Harrison Ford in Young Indy: Well, not for us Brits! They recently showed the Chicago episode on the satellite in two parts, but Ford wasn't in it. It was same ol' George Hall and his grandson. I don't know why this was.

I haven't seen them all but do we ever learn who Indy married?

So, if *Young Indy* has definitely been cancelled, what's Lucas up to? I wonder sometimes if Lucas worries about the fact that all of his projects that don't feature Ford are flops.

Tim Blaes: You're right that the PAL system is better than NTSC because it works with 625 lines whereas your system is 525 lines. However, there is one drawback to PAL: it runs one frame per second faster than film. This doesn't affect the picture quality but it does make all the sounds pitch higher. This is most notable with men's voices. But I'd prefer this to the picture quality problems we get from NTSC to

PAL transfers.

Did you know that Lynch was asked to direct ROTJ but he chose to do *Dune* instead?

ROTJ faults: As I've said before, I do like ROTJ a lot. There's loads to enjoy with it, but like most fans, I do have problems with it. I've been thinking about it a lot recently, trying to define exactly what it is that bothers me. The conclusion I've come to is something I'll call the "silliness factor". I think they meant all this silliness to be comedy. The trouble is that most of it isn't funny and a lot of it has the effect of denegrating the characters and situations. A lot of Jabba's entourage are more comical looking than dangerous and, of course, Han is only capable of acting like an idiot. Then, of course, there are the Ewoks, all of whose antics are performed for supposed comic effect. Their battle with the AT-ST's and storm-troopers are played with too much slapstick. Even the Emperor seems like a pantomime villain at times. There's lots of other silly stuff. Basically what I think is that there's just too much of it and it doesn't work. Comedy is very difficult to do and when it fails, it's painfully obvious. They should leave it to the professionals like Threepio who is wonderfully funny in ROTJ.

Maybe I wouldn't have minded so much if they'd done something better with Solo. In my version, Luke and Leia would have arrived at Jabba's palace and found Han turned back into a real mercenary pirate. After all, his experiences with the rebels had led him into all this trouble. Lando had betrayed him and after suffering such a traumatic experience in carbon freeze, I don't think it would have taken much persuasion from Jabba to convince Solo that looking after number one was the only way to survive. Even more interesting would have been if he'd teamed up with Boba Fett. Then Luke and Leia would've had the problem of convincing him of their love and friendship until finally Solo decides to be a good guy again and has a lethal showdown with Fett. Something a big more exciting than accidentally bumping him into the Sarlacc pit.

Fiorenzo: You mentioned a Marvel comic with a SW parody. Did you ever read the *Howard the Duck* SW parody? It's brilliant. Howard plays a reluctant Luke with other Marvel characters as the SW cast. They have to battle Bzzk'Joh and his Imperium Emporium.

Thanks for listing the foreign translations of the SW names. I suppose I can understand the need to change some of the names but why change the droids' names? They're just numbers and letters.

About Vader shooting at Luke in the trench: I used to think they were cheating a little since, as you say, Vader does get off a couple of shots before he's distracted by his wingman exploding. But it's not a cheat. In several previous scenes, Vader's targetting computer is displayed with the target being locked in, then Vader fires, but it always requires at least 4 or 5 pairs of shots before he hits the target.

Barbara Anderson: That Artoo vibrator cartoon you found is brilliant. I'd love to see more SW cartoons like that. (Of course, I don't approve of this sort of thing. I'm only interested from a research point of view.)

Jurassic Park: What a terrific film! It's so funny and exciting. Scary, too, but without any gore. I thought it improved on the novel's weak points: the characters and the climax. Spielberg's best work since *E.T.* And those digital dinosaurs -- amazing! I want more! They'd better do a sequel!

That's all for now.

Concise and Precise

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September 21, 1993

Oops! I duck my head in shame as being one of those who tends to let my mouth run away with me (no one else will!) and accept Cheree's ticking off! I promise I will *attempt* to keep this letter concise and precise and to the specified length. I'm sorry, Cheree, but it's your own fault for giving us this zine in the first place!

It was nice to see you all have such a good time at MediaWest, and the photographs just rubbed salt into the wounds all the more ... sigh! Well, never mind, I was greatly consoled by a wonderful trip to London (despite a certain person losing our bus tickets!) -- an amazing mix of SW and Depeche Mode! Denis Lawson (Wee Wedge) was such a pleasure to meet, but I'll allow Louise the honor of going into detail.

Jacqueline Taero: Re: tabloid headlines -- see Louise Turner's *Tydirium* #2 and the "Nova" mock tabloid. You'll love it! (If she ever gets the damned zine published...)

Bosnia re-visited, huh? I, too, see the New

Republic collapsing under the tremendous pressures of centuries of arguments, which the Empire managed to keep a lid on. Lots of story ideas to keep the writers writing.

Ming Wathne: Up to my eyes? Nope! The puddle is over my head! But, hey, I like swimming! I think I read that cross-universe story you mentioned -- can't recall where, though.

Z. P. Florian: Thanks for the tremendous support you have given Louise and me re: *Bad Feeling*. It's starting to come together nicely! And for that wonderful box containing my very own Luke! (Can you give me directions for those catacombs you mentioned?)

A. G. Steyn: I agree 100% with your answer to Ming re: Kenobi and Luke killing Vader. Love the idea of 10 people writing a story! We did this during what has become known as "Bedcon 1" but there was only three of us. We took turns in adding a bit, and came up with Luke and Wedge being sent to a planet (don't know why) which was populated by Amazons, who dressed our roving pilots in the traditional dress -- loin cloths -- and took them to meet their leader: The Great Mary Sue. I won't go into details. (Hey, Z.P., one for *The Rest of the Garbage*!) Well, it was funny at 4 a.m.

Marti: Yes, I *know* I must get to MWC some day! I just don't get paid enough to do everything I want! (sob)

Yes, I should write something about the Sith (I should be writing a dozen different things), but at the moment Luke's having a wonderful, yet dreadful, time with a very strange and colorful female and I can't concentrate on anything else. Nuff said!

Debbie Kittle: Have you ever considered that the reason Owen didn't allow Luke to go to the Academy was not only because of his last name or because of who daddy was and Luke could have been "found" sooner, or because he needed a farmhand, or because he was being downright selfish, but because -- pure and simple -- Luke's I.D. was fake, his birth never registered and there was no way in the Galaxy Luke *could* have gone without the whole sordid business coming to light there and then. Can you imagine the shock?

Veronica Wilson: Hey, it's great to talk to you again! As I've already told Marti, "Where Is Thy Sting?" is a masterpiece! Congratulations! It was worth the wait!

Are you too harsh? Hmm, perhaps I'm too naive. Then again, as I've been told, I seem to look for the good in people before I look for their faults. No, that

"more machine than man" line was not encouragement. Though, perhaps it was a test, a push, a challenge even to Luke to make him think "Sod you, Ben. I know I'm right and I'm going to prove it." Sometimes when people give you discouragement, it makes you all the more determined.

Another adoring Depeche Mode fan! Though I've only been an admirer for about six months -- I'm making up for it rapidly (it's been hell on my bank balance).

Mary Jo Fox: Wow! Remind me never to cross swords with you! I applaud much of what you said whole-heartedly, especially your words on ROTJ. However, I still don't like the Ewoks. I *love* the idea behind the creatures and the thoughts behind them defeating the Empire -- but, did they have to be so cute and commercial? Couldn't they have been more bear-like and less teddy-bear-like?

As for Zahn... Hm, I don't have it in for him. I just don't particularly like what he did with the characters and settings. It wasn't that the story was necessarily bad -- it just didn't inspire me, it didn't make me yearn for more, it didn't have that certain "Yes, that's SW" feeling which the movies gave me, and continue to give me. Okay, so I concede that his Luke isn't a wimp -- but, for me, his Luke wasn't always in character. Half the time it was as though I was reading about a stranger.

I guess, as in most things, it's each to his own.

A p.s. on Zahn. He had Hobbie appearing in *Last Command*, didn't he? Neat trick, since Hobbie was killed on Hoth (according to the novel of TESB and the *Guide to the Star Wars Universe*).

Ho Hos sound disgusting. Are they?

We're doing the zine! We're doing it! The best of British with your effort!

Yvette Ghilan: I'm raising my hand! Just call me Miss Goody Two Shoes. And I'm afraid I must disagree with you. Han is a criminal -- even if it may be for the right reasons. Smuggling is smuggling. He wouldn't need to if what he was carrying was legal! But, he's not a villain.

Please carry on talking about Obi-Wan. Why give us a taster and then stop? Oh, and if you are looking for zines for your stories, send one, or two, to Scotland!

Tim Blaes: Re Jedi lovemaking (such an interesting subject, don't you think?). I believe that not only would Luke, or any Jedi, *know* what their partners were feeling, but would be able to feel it, too, from their partner's point of view (especially if that partner was Force sensitive). After all, he can feel the pain of

others, why wouldn't he feel the "love" as well? Or am I just warped?

No, the title Dark Lord of the Sith isn't mentioned in the movies. But, if I remember correctly, it wasn't Alan Dean Foster who originated it, but Lucas. See *Skywalking*. I may be wrong, though.

My SW/TNG cross-over is slowly growing longer and is fun to write. I've never done a ST tale before and it's proving to be an interesting challenge. It's called "May the Force Be With Q" and *please* don't say someone has already used that title somewhere else...

Still waiting to see that photo of McBubba.

Wasn't Lynch the original choice to direct ROTJ, but couldn't due to his *Dune* commitment?

Don't get me started on *Aliens 3*, only the question is: How could they kill off Hicks? His and Newt's deaths were so pointless.

Louise will be eternally grateful for your wise words on Wedge Antilles.

Maggie Nowakowska: Into Celtic bashing, are we? I guess I'll just hide under a pillow and pretend that my ancestors were not Celtic (and Scots) and that my name isn't Gaelic. (I'm jesting, of course.) However, I will admit that I often turn to my cultural roots to find names -- though I try to use ones which people, myself included, can actually pronounce!

Oh, the "skinny Imperial" you refer to is called Commander Noddie (due to his irritating habit of nodding all the time). And you can read of his further adventures in the upcoming, still to be written, tales called "The Adventures of Commander Noddie". These will probably appear along with "Mrs. Dark-lighter's Tupperware Parties" -- well, where do you think Beru got all those plastic plates and cups?

Fiorenzo Delle Rupi: "Villainous Oak"? You have a wonderfully wicked sense of humor. Don't you owe me a letter or didn't you get my last one, or has that Black Hole near Kilbirnie opened up again? A curse on the Post Office!

I, too, have noticed Daddy turning back towards the closed door, and have often wondered. However, don't we just like adding in things with hindsight which were not intended in the first place? Fun, isn't it? As for the Death Star trench, Vader does fire and as Luke appears unharmed we assume he missed. I like to think he missed on purpose and that he was merely trying to cripple the ship so he could capture the pilot. He wouldn't know it was his son, but he also knew the pilot was "strong with the Force". He would be more intrigued than anything else.

Barbara Anderson: Agreed totally with your

sentiments about Owen and Luke. Yep, after four years with SE, you get to graduate with honors, then it's onto your Masters, etc. Me? I've still got three years hard study ahead...

Gerald Crotty: Pawns? Hmm, I'll need time to ponder that one. What keeps coming to mind is the briefing scene from ROTJ. The Big 3 were not the pivotal figures there. They were not the ones in command. They were, however, sitting on the side lines taking orders. We need to remember they are *our* heroes (the films were centered around them), and possibly heroes to the Alliance, too, but they were *part* of the Alliance, fighting for a common good. In that respect, they were pawns -- like any other soldier/pilot/technician/nurse, etc.

When you think about it, the Saga could have been told from a completely different POV -- say Wedge Antilles (Hi, Louise!). Then *he* and those around him would have been our hero, if he isn't already. (Boy, that dark-haired X-wing pilot keeps popping up everywhere.)

Louise: I'm not ignoring you. We can talk any time. Cheree wants things kept short and I've broken my promise already!

Catherine Churko: "Pet project"? Now, which one is that you are referring to? Hopefully I'll be getting a letter off to you in the near future ... I'm about six months behind with most folks. Hi, Marti!

Tina: Yes, *Bad Feeling* is in the works and steadily growing! Contributions are most welcome if you want to dip your toes into and stir up the rather staid shape of British fandom. As for Louise and I, we hope to rock the boat! And with Z.P.'s steamy scenes (Luke walks about naked for 99% of the story) and Marti's hilarious contribution, we'll certainly be doing that!

Um, Sebastian Shaw... Um, I know I saw him in a couple of things, but for the life of me I ain't sure *which* things. I *think* he was in an episode of *Bergerac* and possibly another detective TV show. Sorry -- I just remember thinking, "Hey, that's Anakin!" I shall keep my ever eager eyes open and report back if, and when, this elusive figure is spotted.

Michelle Malkin: I, like Gerald, wish we had seen more of Biggs. I've had to settle my curiosity about this boy by writing a couple of "early Luke" stories and including him in them as one of the central characters. He's a nice laddie, and treats Luke like a fond wee brother, though he recognizes later in life that there is more to Wormie than meets the eye (doesn't everyone?).

Brian Harris: Hi! A warm welcome to SE! Don't know why fandom should be female dominated. I

think I've said it before, but over here things are vastly different. It appears to be very much male oriented (can't say *they'll* be drooling over intergalactic posterboys -- or can you?), and when a female says they are a SW fan people look at them strangely and put it down to hormones (well, isn't everything put down to hormones when you're female? Answers on a postcard to...). Me? I blame Luke for puberty!

Gotta go! Apologies to Cheree. I tried ... honest, guvnor! Until next time... "I think I'll close down for a while."

Book News

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Start the Imperial March. I'm back!

If the editor, instead of starting the Imperial March, is on the contrary starting her repeating blaster gun, I cannot blame her. But don't worry. As Yoda once said, I'll be very short.

Let us start with some news for what I assume to be news. New SW books: The trilogy of Kevin J. Anderson, the one which deals with Luke reconstructing the Jedi Order have the following working titles: *Jedi Search*, *Vader's Shadow* (hm, good one), and *Champions of the Force*. The release dates are February, June and September 1994 (the whole trilogy in six months. Hm? Not bad!) *The Courtship of Princess Leia* should appear in April. Further projects include *Tales from the SW Cantina*, an anthology of SW short stories about the various cantina aliens. This one too will be part of a trilogy continued with *Tales of Jabba's Palace* and *Tales of the Bounty Hunters*, with obvious contents.

On the comic front, we should have *Dark Lords of the Sith*. Thirteen issues always from Dark Horse Comics coming in spring and detailing at last the story of my favorite elite corps. Gossip about Dark Empire II say that in the sequel Palpie (of course he'll be back again! You'll never get rid of him!) will be creating his own army of Dark Jedi. Where do I sign to join?

Other SW goodies: A *National Geographic* style album by Ralph McQuarrie scheduled for Christmas 1994 depicting scenes from all SW planets (yes, *all* SW planets, including Alderaan and Imperial City!) and

the upcoming SW Chess for PC (chess simulator with SW characters instead of pawns, kings, etc.). Not bad, huh? Time to start a fourth mortgage on my house...

Z. P. Florian and Veronica Wilson: So far the Young Palpie Chronicles are for the most part in my mind. Other fragments are on paper and more fragments are lost somewhere in that cyberspace wormhole which is the memory of my computer. By the time I get the whole thing down, George Lucas will have all of the two remaining trilogies filmed, I'm afraid. In any case, Z. P., guess who'll have the dire job of reading the whole thing in advance to see if it stinks too much?

Veronica: I admit that my hints last time were rather dark (well, what did you expect them to be?). Anyway, the basic idea of the Palpie/Anakin interrelation is this one. Common fanfic always begets that Darksiders go the Dark Side, at least at the beginning, of their own free will. Now, I know that it counterdicts myth, laws of narrative dramatic ethos and all this stuff. But what if at least in one case the "victim" was born in the Dark Side, had never known the Light, and had no choice or free will whatever from the beginning? So, we have a Palpie, frustrated and obsessed with the fact that as far as he can tell, he is the only one forced to live forever in Darkness. He wants to prove that Darkness is not a fate imposed only over him and, therefore, tries to drag at least someone to a fate similar to his own. He picks Anakin, the shining good guy at the top of the list. "If I can drag *him* to the Dark Side, then I'll prove that everybody can be pushed over my way." Surprisingly enough, Anakin easily gives in and from then on, it is the usual "Dark tutorage" in which Anakin is imbued with all ideas on restoring order to the galaxy through one single absolute rule, etc. Again, the transformation in Vader marks the no-going-back point, but Palpatine is disappointed once again when he finds out that even after that, Anakin is able to return to the Light Side if he wants. Once again, he is the only one who is not allowed to do so. He then threatens Vader to remain on his side through sheer force, and Vader does so, partially because he has not the strength to go back, partially because he still hopes to heal Palpatine, or, if things come to worst, take his place at the top of the Empire. The interesting thing, at least according to my intentions, would be never to specify if Palpatine is really forced to remain in the Dark Side or if it is only a self-delusion of his mad mind.

If it sounds like a delirious idea, it's because it probably is.

Mary Jo: Yes, I must admit that having new SW stories coming out has its setbacks, too! We've had two new series out and in one, I earned a psychotic ex-secret agent who is the embodiment of Mary Sue at its worst, and in the second, I got a second-grade cousin who seems the SW answer to Wesley Crusher. If he ever manages to get the Imperial Throne, well, that is the time I give myself to active Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles fandom once and for all. Assassinate him? Yes, and in a slow, painful way, if possible!

Tina: Sigh, no luck in London with Ian McDiarmid's address. There are four McDiarmids in the phonebook, all located in impossible corners of the city, and none of them had "Ian" as first name... But I'll be back. I swear!

Louise Turner: Don't worry. I completely agree with you on the real archaeology. I'll trade a Roman column for a monolith any day! Julius Caesar in my family tree? Hmmm... I don't think so... In my family tree I have Emperor Palpatine, Mongo's Ming, Aquilae's Bishop, Fistandantilus, Twin Peaks' Bob, Doctor Doom, Loki, Mojo, Flintheart Glomgold, Queen Bavmorda, Krang, the Sheriff of Nottingham, and Mordred, but no Julius Caesar so far... But if I ever need an uncle in the Asterix world... And come on, after all he wasn't such a bad guy! Eeek! I went off-topic! As punishment, I'll go read the latest contribution I got for *Cloud City*: "Ode to the Overwhelming Qualities of Mara Jade." Dark Greetings, everybody!

P.S. I might as well start wishing everybody Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. It's about time, I think?

Subjective Judgment

Jacqueline Taero
Terra, Sol System
Milky Way, Known Universe

I realize that this is an extremely simplistic solution, but ... why don't we merely agree that each of us has his or her particular favorite (or least favorite) film from the Trilogy and leave it at that? I may think one film is flawed and you may think the same film is perfect -- it's a subjective judgment, not a matter of right or wrong. And I would like to apologize if I ruffled anyone's feathers with my comments regarding ROTJ; it may not be my personal

favorite of the three, but it had its moments.

Louise Turner: Followers of Wedge are either members of the established Temple of Wedge or devotees of an underground cult known as Wedgies. Take your pick...

Z. P. Florian: What?? Luke *isn't* a tormented, sad, suicidal case?? But that's the stuff of which fanfic is *made*! Seriously, I share your doubts that Lucas originally meant Luke and Leia to be twins. Siblings, perhaps, but not twins. And why twins, anyway? Simply making them brother and sister would be a lot more credible and accomplish the same ends insofar as inherited Force talent is concerned.

As for Kenobi -- maybe he wasn't originally intended to be lying ... but he certainly ended up doing enough of it. However, leaving Kenobi's dubious tales out of the equation, all we actually know from the Saga is that Leia vaguely remembers her mother and describes her as sad -- her mother's relationship to Bail Organa, details of Leia's supposed adoption by Bail, etc., aren't at all clear. I think what *really* happened went something like this: Anakin Skywalker/Darth Vader's lady bears two children -- whether twins or separate births is, for the purpose of this fantasy, irrelevant. The male child, Luke, is stolen by an interfering Jedi, to be kept in reserve as the next Jedi Secret Weapon. The child's mother is told that the male infant has died and that the love of her life has fallen into a pit of steaming lava and is presumed to have gone "pouff."

Meanwhile, back at the palace, Bail Organa (her seventh cousin twice removed) is desperate for a wife because people are beginning to talk about his close relationship with one of his droids and, besides, he needs an heir. Unable to find anyone willing to marry him because he's such a pompous bantha's backside, Bail uses this poor woman's grief-stricken state to convince her to marry him and adopts her daughter Leia as part of the deal.

Still with me? Okay, later on, the woman discovers that her former mate, whom she thought to have perished in a volcano or some such nonsense, is alive and well and running around the galaxy in a black cape, getting his jollies by strangling the Emperor's lieutenants -- but unfortunately, this makes no difference to Bail, who refuses to hear of a divorce, and it wouldn't matter to Darth one way or another, because he has a bad case of amnesia from hitting his head on the edge of a crater somewhere and doesn't remember her, anyway. *Of course*, the woman is sad -- she's pining away over her lost love, Darth Vader. She's also a little bent out of shape that her current

husband's prospects for advancement in the Empire don't appear to be anywhere near those of the guy in the black cape.

Luke and Mon Mothma ... my mind is just twisted enough to like that idea. But would it be a serious tale, a melodrama, or a comedy? This has a whole zine's worth of possibilities.

Yvette Ghilan: I have to question your statement that the SW universe has neither paper nor timepieces. How do you know it doesn't? Regarding paper, we see only tiny parts of a very, very large galaxy with a vast array of cultures in varying stages of technological development. Some cultures are computerized, some are still using skins, and some undoubtedly have paper. (Perhaps including the "mainstream culture" of the films. Am I the only one who remembers the early TESB trailer with a scene of Threepio ripping an Imperial recruiting poster off the wall? That poster sure looked like paper to me.) Anyway, who says printouts have to be paper? Why not some other material, perhaps a plastic derivative, which could be imprinted and then electronically wiped for reuse?

Timepieces are even more problematic. No watches, no clocks? How then does anyone know what time it is? Ask the computer? What if the computer terminal doesn't happen to be handy? (I haven't noticed Leia Organa carrying a purse around the galaxy -- I've always wondered where she keeps her comb and lipstick, and now we've got the question of where she stashes her notepad computer as well.) It's more likely that we simply don't recognize the timepieces. That artistic object in the Bespin corridor could be the Town Hall clock for all we know.

Re: this-world terminology versus invented words, my feeling is that as long as Han, Luke and Leia are speaking English, I'm going to call coffee by the name coffee. If the item in question is something that doesn't exist in the this-world universe, then I give it an invented name. That's just my personal preference, because I have a hard enough time coming up with plots and dialogue without worrying about what to call common everyday items. (And where does one stop? If we re-name coffee, then what about re-naming the cup it's poured into, or the table the cup is sitting on?) I have no problem with others using invented names but coffee's still coffee to me.

Cheree Cargill: Earthquakes, tornadoes and spewing lava as the result of a wizard's duel? What a great concept -- and that would explain a lot about Ben's and Yoda's abhorrence of Darksiders if that's what happens everytime a Lightsider and Darksider

start throwing Force spells around. ((Ed: And what if Yoda looks the way he does because he got hit by a bad Force spell and couldn't reverse the process? What if he's really a human under that warty green skin?))

Tina Bentrup: I think Yoda and Kenobi were fixated on Vader because they viewed his fallen-to-the-Darkside existence as a personal affront and his destruction had become an obsession. ("Okay, we'll save the galaxy from Imperial domination -- but let's take care of that @#%*\$&% turncoat first!")

Veronica Wilson: You're right. "More machine than man" *isn't* a comment that would encourage anyone to look for the good in Vader. Plus, that's a very revealing statement in some ways. Obi-Wan Kenobi obviously harbors a deep disdain for machines and is prejudiced against cyborgs. Tsk, tsk. Quick, call the Political Correctness Police.

Gerald Crotty: Found your mention of Asimov's Foundation trilogy very interesting; I hadn't considered the possible parallels between the two before. I recall once seeing an interview where someone (Marquand? Lucas?) stated that Luke is "a pawn in a game that's been going on since before Luke was born." That would fit very well with the Foundation scenario.

Now, kids, it's time to Ask the Next Question again. I'm sure you'll all be thrilled to know that our topic of the day concerns -- er, sorry about this -- droids.

The rebel bases and Death Stars are literally crawling with droids. How much do the droids know and what safeguards are there, if any, to prevent that knowledge from being tapped? What happens if a rebel droid falls into Imperial hands or vice versa?

Is there a thriving black market in kidnapped and/or stolen droids? What about blackmail by "droid hackers" who raid the memories of someone else's droids? Are there rogue droids, perhaps left ownerless for some reason, who have simply gone off on their own? What about runaway droids? What percentage of the population owns droids, anyway?

Owen tells Luke to have Artoo's and Threepio's memories erased. If a robot's memory is wiped, is it gone for good or is there a Norton Utilities for droids?

How about droids as spies? Except for a few specific instances of emotional attachment (Luke and Artoo, for example), it appears that all droids look the same to humans. Wouldn't it be easier to get a droid into an enemy location than a human agent?

Just how loyal is the average droid? When Artoo and Threepio are purchased by Owen Lars, there

seems to be no question in anyone's mind that they will automatically obey their new owners -- until, that is, Artoo takes off to find Ben Kenobi in accordance with prior instructions. After carrying out his "mission", Artoo seems to have no difficulty in switching his allegiance to Luke, although we see no alterations made to his programming to account for it. Is Artoo free to pick and choose whom he will follow? Is he the exception or the rule? How much freedom of choice do droids have?

The dismembered droids on Beshpin appear to be headed for a furnace of some sort. To what purpose? Are they being melted down for re-use of the metal (and if so, why haven't reusable wires, circuits, etc. been removed first?) or is the furnace merely the Beshpin garbage dump? Is Tibanna gas really nothing more than the industrial pollution fumes created by the Beshpin furnaces?

Is Threepio as annoying in all six million languages as he is in English? (Okay, Cherec, I'm going to sign off anytime now...)

Jedi-Breeder

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September 19, 1993

Hello, everyone! I hope your summers went well, and that autumn will be equally pleasant. We actually had a few weeks of no rain when I left the Midwest, and things are back to normal on the near-coast of New Jersey, which means we *are* getting rain here. ...sigh... You'll all know me at the next MWC: I'll be the person trailing water wherever she goes. Anyway, onto better topics...

A.G.: I somehow find it more plausible for Yoda to sense Vader's "turnability" than for Obi-Wan to have done so. Remember that Yoda doesn't protest nearly as much as Ben does when Luke leaves Dagobah to confront Vader the first time, in TESB. Kenobi is almost squirming with combined fear and anxiety in this scene and for good reason, considering not only who Vader is, but also those few important details Ben just neglected to mention to Skywalker, Junior. His fear is for Luke's safety, but also for what Luke might learn. Obi-Wan's behavior is not that of

a man confident of the final outcome, while Yoda is much more serene. Do you think Kenobi changed his mind by ROTJ? I don't buy it...

Also, as for your question about why Luke can't use the Force in ROTJ to locate Leia -- she was unconscious for a lot of that time, and that may help explain it. Or, perhaps with an untrained Force-psyche such as Leia's, a Force-user's finding them is a hit-or-miss proposition.

Z.P.: I'm so glad we've become friends because of MWC. You know, your comment to Mary Jo about Luke having an affair with Mon Mothma is intriguing -- someone should write it!

Marti: Hey, woman! I know you realize this, but I'll state it for the record here and jump into the fray: I have no problem with your preferring to make Luke sterile. He has enough responsibilities without having to serve as a Jedi-breeder, too. This would not affect his romantic life, since you've not made him impotent. (If you did that, of course, we'd have to kill you. *smile*) He and Dad both are sensual men, potent in every sense of the word, I insist vehemently over and over again... The Force is life, and sex is the ultimate life-confirming act. (Although for Vader, it would probably also be a display of power.) But then, with you, I'm unnecessarily preaching to the long-converted!

To anyone: I saw the much-anticipated YJUC Mata Hari episode. Carrie and Ian M. notwithstanding, I thought the story was trite and carelessly done. I have enough knowledge of the period in question to have recognized several instances of playing fast and loose with historical facts. For one thing, unless I learned this wrong, Hari was supposed to be middle-aged during this point in her career, and many people saw her as a sex symbol only in her own mind. Historians have also considered her much less of a real political threat than she liked to believe. (Rather like Mara Jade!) Am I wrong here?

Tammy: Thanks for the MWC tape! How's the zine coming? I agree with you about Owen being cranky, but we should remember that the man was terrified for Luke, who he undoubtedly loved; if he didn't, he wouldn't care what happened to the boy. Hell, if Owen had been less of a good person, he could have turned Luke over to the Empire for a fat reward and lived the rest of his days in luxury instead of on barren Tatooine.

As for your comment to Nora Mayers about how after Luke's suffering "it was good to see someone else go through some pain, too", my, my, have you opened yourself up to vituperation, my friend! (smile)

My only mild response is that every main character in the Saga suffers a great deal, in different ways, Han, Leia, Darth and Ben not least of all. I would also like to point out that all of these people suffer for Luke's sake, although not exclusively so. Yes, Luke goes through hell, but he's not the only one. This is because he is the fulcrum upon which the Force-balance of the galaxy depends. That part of the seesaw always gets the most strain, but the other parts have their ups and downs, too, to use a strange but perhaps applicable metaphor.

Matthew: I personally believe Vader didn't kill people at random all through his career. Yes, he was always severe, and a hardass, but what we see in TESP was perhaps extreme behavior caused by his desperate obsession to find his son. Remember, he seems mellower in ROTJ -- doesn't kill a single officer, and in that film he is more confident that he and Luke will be brought together again. So, in ANH, he might have been giving Motti a warning with no real intent to kill him, whether or not Tarkin had decided to intervene.

Jennifer: Thanks for the compliment, but I hardly consider myself a Vader authority, just a devoted afficianado who perhaps justifies more about the Sith Lord than she should... It was great meeting you at MWC, and we'll definitely have to get together next year.

Mary Jo: Loved your comments on Leia versus the usual victim-heroines. The Organa princess is wonderful, and I adore well-written stories about her. Thanks also for your words about ROTJ -- I think the problem was that ten built up too much anticipation before the third film, and that nothing could have lived up to everyone's expectations. The same may be the case with the next trilogy, as some SE readers have suggested. I have not met a single "mundane" ROTJ viewer who was disappointed in the third film. The critics of course are another story, but then, they always are! ROTJ has weaknesses, as does any creative project, but it also has moments of life-affirming, nearly searing beauty.

Yvette: Your thoughts on killing in the SW galaxy seem valid to me. We should also remember that even most Judeo-Christian thought excuses killing in times of war. In SW, both sides are fighting a war for ideological and actual survival, after all... Here's an interesting idea. Someone should do a story about a Darksider sympathetic to the Rebellion. One could share Palpie and Vader's Force-affiliations and not share their political opinions, after all. Someone who hated the Empire could decide to help the other side

without accepting Lightside philosophy. Would such a person be acceptable on purely utilitarian grounds?

Fiorenzo: While I did not loathe *The Last Command* as much as you, I too shrieked at the quick, almost easy-to-miss way in which Thrawn met his end. The method was fine, but the description of it was terrible. (When I got to that point in the book, I hurled the volume, terrifying my poor friend Barbara! Then the poor woman had to listen to my ranting about it for several minutes.) The "plants" are a dumb idea, as you said. I also don't think Zahn explained them enough to understand. Did he say who put them there in the first place? Was it Palpatine? Maybe this was explained, but if so, I missed it -- probably while yawning -- and I can't deal with the thought of picking up the book again to find out. ((*Ed: I yawned -- or was it a gape of astonishment -- at the emotional detachment of the birth scene. Presumably Han and Leia got more excited at the conception; they sure weren't very excited at the birth. And I found myself dazzled with amazement that Leia wasn't aware enough of her contractions to give them more than passing contemplation. She thought her stomach was tightening?? Is Zahn implying that a woman can't tell the difference between her stomach and her uterus? Perhaps he can't tell the difference between his stomach and his testicles. Or is it his brain and his anus? Jeez...*))

Barbara: I've ruminated about ROTJ earlier in this letter, but I have to respond to the comment you made. As a Vader fan, I disagree that the film made him into a "maudlin, pathetic figure." The only time the man is openly emotional is when he is dying, knowing he has only a few moments to talk to the person who has suddenly become the center of his life. He's not going to waste that time by justifying his past deeds or defending his political beliefs: he knows those are irrelevant now. What matters is that he is not "more machine than man", and that Luke needs him to confirm that. There's no reason for him to defend, explain or even repent his crimes -- he is dying for them and that is retribution enough. His end is therefore tragic in the classical sense of the word: a man destroyed by his own actions and hubris. But, it is not pathetic at all. Pathetic would be if he had stood by and let Palpatine destroy the thing most precious to him. Pathetic would be if Vader had not had a death-scene at all, but merely blown up in the *Death Star* or been decapitated by Luke, for example. Then his love would have been wasted. In ROTJ, however, it is not. Finally, in ROTJ we see a three-dimensional man, a villain capable of tenderness as well as violence, love as well as hatred. Why is that

problematic? Han's characterization may have indeed been rendered less complex and nuanced in the film -- but Lucas is certainly not guilty of this with Vader. Perhaps because of the sheer dictates of film time, one character's growth had to be sacrificed to the other's.

Tina: Thanks for the story plug! Please keep working on your alternate; I'm anxious to read it. And can we have more of your wonderful cartoons?

Brian: Welcome! I loved your letter, and am glad you're joining the group. We need more male-types here. If I'm ever near Texas, I'll look you up. It could happen -- I'm a transplanted Kansan.

Well, that's it for now. Take care, everyone. Until next time...

Tales from the Leather Rocket

Tim Blaes

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Regarding the LoCs this issue, as well as past issues, I must say that I enjoy the occasional discussion of SF movies, comics, music, religion, politics, philosophy, and the Meaning of Life As We Know It. It seems hard not to dip into such areas when discussing SW. With all the talk about Depeche Mode, and Catriona's comment that "every song has SW connotations," I'm provoked to check them out as soon as I can (right after I scrape up the \$\$ for the next ish).

One of the best things about SW letterzines is that their LoCs are most likely to include a bibliography, so I'm perfectly willing to read an occasional excerpt from a book or magazine. I do understand the need for limits, but easy on that whip.

Jacqueline Taero: I'm not sure a "Dark Age" such as we experienced on our planet could happen to a truly Galactic civilization, but the chaos resulting from the Empire's destruction could turn more than one planetary government on its end. Things are bound to get mighty interesting, as in the old Chinese curse.

Ming Wathne: Could Vader's size be accounted for by an exoskeleton -- one that could provide plenty of anchorage for any cybernetics?

I would think "toilet" would be more descriptive than "sano." With a thousand worlds out there, there are bound to be local variations which insert themselves into galactic standard. We can have "soda

pop," not just invent Coke or Pepsi. "Refrigerator" is a fairly basic descriptive term. Though some might offer plausible arguments against it, I'd rather not imagine a universe without chocolate. Or cats.

Z. P. Florian: *Tales From the Leather Rocket* may or may not be ready for the next MediaWest. Most of my potential contributors consider the zine's theme too wild, or not wild enough. I'm sorry, but I won't permit Veg-O-Matics to be used as sexual implements! Promised but not yet delivered stories include everything from a *Man From U.N.C.L.E.* to a *Quantum Leap* to a *Gilligan's Island*. I could send you my guidelines if you're interested?

A. G. Steyn: The idea of a round-robin story session sounds very appealing. Perhaps something could be organized next MediaWest? Something else I would like to see done as a group effort would be a "Choose Your Own Story" type zine. The logistics of that might be a bitch, though; I envision a wall covered with Post-It notes just to keep track of it all.

Who is to say Luke didn't use the Force to some degree to find Leia? After all, she didn't stay lost very long.

Marti Schuller: To paraphrase Bjo Trimble, get any three SW fans together and you'll have four differing opinions. I know this for a fact because I'm the one who usually brings the spare. There used to be some really radical elements in SW fandom; Empire supporters, the "Church of Ford," the Duncan sisters and their Leia-bashing. Hardly a radical in sight anymore, and fandom has become comfortable. I'm not so sure that's a good thing.

Hard to tell what Vader's true reaction to the destruction of Alderaan was, but my suspicions concur with yours. Consider also: not much time -- perhaps only a couple of hours -- passed between the destruction of Alderaan and Luke's busting into Leia's cell, awakening her in the process. Her passing out after the obliteration of her homeworld would be an understandable reaction, and I have this image of Vader carrying Leia back to her cell.

Debbie Kittle: I loved the doll exhibit and am shocked to hear of its rough treatment by the art show staff. What are you planning for next year's exhibit? May I suggest an extended cantina scene with as many cross-universe elements as you can fit in?

I wonder if Carrie would ever be interested in doing a SW novel. I wonder if such a novel would be allowed to see print.

Veronica Wilson: Whether Leia is a virgin or not, I don't think she would apologize for either condition. As for Vader, anyone who doubted his masculinity

could take a long walk out a short airlock.

Matthew Whitney: The "secret code" to identify bootleg copies of the movies may in part have involved adding/subtracting scenes. But considering how many prints must have been made, I doubt that every print was unique. More likely a code was stamped on frames of the film that would show up on bootleg videotapes.

I liked what you had to say about *Babylon 5* and pilots in general. What really excites me about B5 is its potential and attitude, and its promise of bringing *real* SF to the small screen. If B5 can take off and stay under budget, then more SF epics could be given a chance. Perhaps George and Steven would be provoked into producing the first and/or last Trilogy as one or more TV miniseries.

Mary Jo Fox: How's this for a cross-universe story: Ripley, Leia and Sarah Conner together in group therapy for post-traumatic stress syndrome? Anyone else we could add to the group?

I have never thought of Ewoks as too cute! They tried to *eat* Luke, Han, and Chewie. It was only the merchandising that pushed the "cute" angle.

Writing an enjoyable "bad" work of fiction requires almost as much skill as writing good fiction. If somebody does a Bad SW Story Contest, what do we give the winners? A "Wedgie"?

Yvette Ghilan: No paper or timepieces in the SW universe? Whatever gave you that idea? A military organization that doesn't keep rigid time? Yeah, sure -- and Darth Vader wears R2-D2 Under-roos. Even if most information is sent and received electronically, there would always be a need for hard copy. Not to mention paper's artistic uses.

Carolyn Golledge: I don't understand the decrease in masquerade participation either. Perhaps we should get the Blaster Battle people to go out ... and persuade some of those hall customers to get up on stage.

I am not among those who think Han was reduced in stature in ROTJ. But perhaps Lucas had been paying attention to the Church of Ford/Cathedral of Luke fracas and it had some effect on how Han was portrayed in ROTJ.

Maggie Nowakowska: I'm not certain how to date and define my participation on SW fandom. Part of the reason I haven't sent anything to Lori Barron's Star Wars Project is that I can't honestly say that SW has provoked me to become a brain surgeon or the like, or helped me through a difficult time in my life. Anything that touches you, changes you ... but I have no idea what my life would have been like if SW

never existed. I have no inspirational story for her. Still, I think I can send you something.

Even if *Jedistardarkfalconknight 2* never comes into existence, I hope someone does another SW-humor magazine. Soon. A lot of fanfic I've seen lately seems to have homogenized into the same old dreary stuff.

Cheryl Pryor: Hmmm? Just who was Space Ghost, anyway?

Barbara Anderson: I'm not at all certain that "SW fans are the largest one group attending MW*C." Trek has its share of well-attended panels, "smaller" fandoms such as QL and B&B are still quite active, and "omnivorous" fans such as myself could be argued as the largest group at MW*C. But I would say that SW fans are the most ... rambunctious. That probably has something to do with having had our fandom declared "dead."

I'm going to assume you enjoyed *The Fugitive* even more than I did. Strange thing, though; in the movie "the Fat Lady sings," leaving few if any loose ends. Yet most pre-release publicity kept whispering the intention of franchising. Now how are they going to do that without being contrived?

Gerald Crotty: November should see the release of *New Visions: The Art of Star Wars Galaxy*, a 132-page softcover presenting 70 full-page reproductions of artwork from the card set. Included with each piece will be preliminary roughs and sometimes stills that inspired the artwork, and interviews with the artists. Also included will be an introduction by George Lucas and a sneak preview of their next SW project (probably *STAR WARS Galaxy II*), all for \$19.95.

Subtitles can be a real pain if you don't have crystal-clear reception or cable. I live in the mountains of North Carolina, and sometimes the best reception I can get is full of shadows and grainy images, and that can make reading subtitles hard or impossible.

Oh, if only I could get Carrie Fisher to write for my zines! I love a woman with a filthy sense of humor; why else do you think I hang out with this crowd? Can't help but wonder what she was doing at the Porno Awards. Rooting for her favorites?

Louise Turner: "Normal" people live uneventful lives. All great things in this world have been accomplished by people who are not normal. The meek shall inherit the Earth, but we get the rest of the galaxy!

Tina Bentrup: *Textual Poachers* could have been even dryer than it was, but Henry Jenkins wanted the

book's subject matter to be able to read the book as well as the academics. I'm hoping he'll do another book.

I made copies of the SW & Empire radio shows off the air when they were first broadcast. I even donated a set to the Fan Fund. (I wonder how much they went for?) I suppose I should go ahead and buy both sets anyway, if only to hear them in stereo. Maybe high sales will provoke a ROTJ radio show.

Catriona Campbell: Leia could very well be on a diplomatic mission to her home planet if she were acting on behalf of another planet. We have only hints of what the galactic government was like, or Leia's responsibility in it.

Let's see, in the ROTJ novelization, Owen and Obi-Wan are brothers. James Kahn may be full of wild blueberry muffins on that matter, but if that fact proved to be true and Mom and Beru were sisters ... Well, this family tree is complicated enough already.

There is an easy way of yanking water out of desert air: Pile up a bunch of rocks into a rough pyramid. The stones at the center stay cool, water condenses and drips to the bottom, where it can be collected. A number of ancient desert cities used this method to supply their water needs. And just because Tatooine is dry doesn't mean it can't have a water table. So Jabba's dungeon could very well be dank and dripping.

I'd already received Candace Pulleine's mailout. The only thing I can add comes secondhand from Bill Hupe. He was sitting behind a dealer's table as a woman was scanning a *Blake's 7* zine, when a second woman came up and told her, "Don't buy it. We're making a Kinko's run in an hour." Correct me if I'm wrong, but if anybody tried that at MediaWest, the police would be making chalk marks on the hotel carpet. I think all parties should calm down and try to understand the other's feelings before things get out of hand.

Brian Harris: Howdy! Glad to see someone else with an XY chromosome in these parts. Forgive me if I'm forward, but you seemed nervous about dealing with so many women. I've been with this group from the start, and I can tell you for certain that they don't bite ... hard.

A couple of random thoughts before I push my luck too far. Most of the fan fiction coming out for quite some times now is post-ROTJ, some post-TESB, and a little pre-A New Hope. It seems to me that with what we know now, a lot of interesting things could be done, set between the first and second movies. How did Luke and Han go about settling into

the Rebel Alliance? How did Leia adjust to life completely underground? How did their friendship develop? I recommend that we re-explore this period in the saga.

When I first started buying zines, it was a tradition to list other zines -- currently available or in development -- somewhere in the back. You don't see that much anymore. Letterzines/adzines are the only places where you find listings now. I suppose the market has evolved that way for a reason, but I miss the feeling of community those listings represented.

From the Outer Limits of the Twilight Zone....

No Place Like Home...

Liz Sharpe
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September 22, 1993

There's no place like home... There's no place like home... Cheree, thank you so much for sending me the latest ish -- and in time for me to squeeze in a comment or two, if I'm quick! Heartfelt appreciation, all 'round. After, what, hmmm, about a 10-year hiatus (*many congratulations!* on SE's anniversary -- but what a twinge to see my name on that ancient list of LoCers -- gave me to realize how long I've been pottering about), it truly felt like a welcome-home-coming to open SE's pages once more. Just enough familiar names from the days before I lapsed for reassurance that I'm in the right place; lots of new (to me!) names with vigorous opinions and fresh ideas, all of 'em most very interesting. I was startled and delighted to see so many addresses in the DC metropolitan area, by the way; it wasn't always so. Do you all get together? Would you like to get together? Don't be put off by my Glenn Dale address; I'm actually only about 2 miles outside the Beltway in Maryland, a hopskip and hyperjump from the New Carrollton Metro stop for them that prefers to rendezvous via public transit. P'raps we could hold an un-MediaWest or a Next Year's Bash in anticipation of the 1994 pilgrimage? I have a whole house to myself, plenty of room, so drop me a line and let's work something out. (Queries from folks farther afield, like NJ or southern PA [Yo! Michelle Malkin!] are also welcome, logistics permitting). Anyway, it's nice to know y'all are out here! Hiya!

The thumbnail Liz, for we who haven't met ... crescent-shaped, semi-transparent, about 2cms wide, tough but flexible, largely composed of keratin... *stop that!* Untimely hatched distinctly more than 30 years ago in a suburb of Boston (I left within 6 months, don't blame Massachusetts), came to live near DC (which *does* explain a lot) (about something in the vicinity), rambled in search of education from Oregon to Oxford, and ultimately settled near DC again for lack of a better plan. My head holds my hair up, my legs reach all the way to the ground, and my knuckles don't usually drag on the floor. Much. On good days. I am occupationally employed (basically a jill-of-all-administrative functions, currently a legal secretary/admin assistant) but that has little to do with my real life, which centers around my animals (currently 3 dogs, a cat, and a leased horse), my home (it's new -- the battle to establish a bit of garden currently occupies much of my "free" daylight hours -- you can find me out back with a burro in tow, prospecting for topsoil among the rocks, rubbish, roots, waterproof clay, and other non-vegetarian-friendly detritus that composes my yard). Current hobbies include animal training ("McFly! No! Not there!"), digging like a dwarf, agonizing over new-home budget, and not thinking about food ("but food is our friend!"). Am trying to get back to spending more time with my long-neglected true love, book and media fandom. Y'know, like, *reading* and *writing*, with p'raps a bit of TV viewing thrown in... I dunno. Life is short. Think dirty.

SW-specific orientation: I love how the whole ensemble (cast, directing, FX) works -- everybody gets a good part, and loss would be noticeable throughout if *any* part was cut. Perish the thought! But I confess shamelessly INYOFACE to strong personal wanna-be identification with Han Solo. I have been guilty of the Mary Sue alter-ego thing in the past, and probably will be again. (Golledge will tell you, if she can manage to stop laughing long enough.) However, despite my Corellian yearnings, I find the Jedi most intriguing... And I want to find out more about the internal mechanics of the Empire... The internal politics of the Rebellion (or is that the Alliance?) and the universe just wouldn't happen the same way without Leia Organa's busy and dedicated self-assertion... And the same for the rest -- as I said, it's the way the whole thing goes together that's so fascinating!

If I had to choose a favorite between ANH and TESB, I would have to answer "Yes!" My opinion of ROTJ is mixed, though still strongly in favor. Most of my reservations have to do with, um, er, hedge*hedge,

what I perceive to be clumsiness on the part of the storyteller(s). Luke's part of the plot is *marvelous*. Leia gets some delightfully strong action scenes, as well as touchy-feelie emotional stuff. But I do feel that Han's character was not presented in quite the same spirit as in the first two movies. It would have been possible, without changing a line of dialogue, to emphasize the "accidents happen to the *best* of us" aspect of the infamous stick-stepping scene. It would have been possible to emphasize the Ewoks' tremendously subtle woodcraft (the trap succeeds *despite* the presence of a wary Wookiee and a trained Jedi) to explain Our Heroes' experience with the bag-trap. The "it's me" line (as shown, ICK) could have been filmed in a way that would preserve our respect for the character... Other quibbles: I'm baffled by the bait-and-switch subplot in which the *Falcon's* destruction appears to be foreshadowed. IMO, that plot could have been followed through on, possibly with *superior* dramatic results: (1) a noble/tragic departure, in the heat of the good fight for right, for the grand old lady (much as I love her, it would've been quite an emotional ride!) and (2) it would've helped resolve a dilemma that's in store for Han and Leia (how dismal to contemplate the *Falcon* becoming an also-ran in the competition for Han's affections; yet what a chance for a bit of quasi-noble gesturing on the part of the apparently new-and-reformed Han Solo ("Sure, the *Falcon's* gone -- but that part of my life is over now -- I've got you and that's what matters" [*gak*urgck* -- excuse me]). I do think the Ewok battle scenes are too long, but I don't object to what Lucas and Marquand are trying to show. Again, my objections are to clumsiness in presentation, not content. ROTJ is definitely an integral part of the saga, and I wouldn't be without it!

With regard to the freezer-burn problem in ROTJ: My personal twisted theory of the month is that (unbeknownst to anybody) Boba Fett is another of Han's old buddies. After flying off with Han's frozen delectable, Fett puts his ship in park and thaws him out, figuring that Han is gonna owe him Big Time now. Han's first words (after "somebody get me a towel") are "get me outta here." Fett replies, "I did." Han sez, "No -- I mean *out of here!*" Fandom has been right all along. Han really is scared spitless of Moral Commitment and has just experienced an up-front-and-personal reminder of how dangerous it is. Every mercenary, survival-oriented, self-preservation-type reflex arc that makes him a charter member of the school of action-without-thought is screaming for him to bail out *now* from the whole sorry mess:

Princesses, Jedi, rebellion, the works. Reacting like a typically responsible mercenary pirate/smuggler, he deals with the issue by getting drunk on Fett's private reserve, in the middle of which he has an inopportune collision with an Idea. (Bad timing.) He and Fett detour to the forbidden Zerocks, where the secret cottage industry is the not-entirely-lost but definitely-comprehensively-outlawed and otherwise utterly-frowned-upon art of cloning. They have a cheap clone of Han run off at a handy copy shop, and stick the genetically-indistinguishable product back in Han's custom-fit carbonite freezer chest (after drinking the rest of the beer they'd been stashing there). They don't expect the clone to survive, even if somebody (either Jabba or the presumed Rebel rescue squad) does thaw it out. Fett still gets to deliver Han's bod (and collect the payment); Jabba gets the dubious pleasure of torturing an inanimate corpse; the original Han finds himself footloose and fancy free (look out, universe) with everybody (including Jabba!) off his

back. At least, temporarily. Until he works out whatever it is he really wants to do about it all. Which will probably come right after deciding what he wants to be when he grows up. Which he'll get around to next time he's sober...

It's a nasty surprise to all concerned (including fandom!) when Han's clone (despite being just a teensy bit defective) somehow manages to survive after all...

Kidding. I'm just kidding. I picked up some feclthy habits whilst playing in *Blake's 7* fandom and a fondness for "alternate solutions" is one of 'em.

Hmm, I wonder what the "original" Han would do upon discovering he'd been supplanted by ... himself?

There were a-many things I meant to comment on, but this is getting too long already and it would be nice if I'd meet the deadline, *any* deadline, for a change.

It's been nice typing at ya. More anon. Fair voyages, all!



The Blue Jawa and Arwen Rosenbaum
Arwen Rosenbaum



Maggie Nowakowska
Photo by Arwen Rosenbaum

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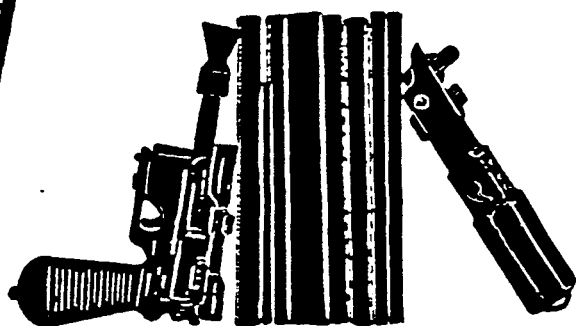
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A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #6. 1992 Star Award for Best SW Zine. Also features 1992 Star Award Best Cover Art (bacover) by Wanda Lybarger and 1992 Star Award Best Poem ("True Colors") by Jacqueline Taero. Much more!! "Ladies' Choice" by Pat Nussman and Jacqueline Taero. The Alliance forces have relocated from Yavin to Hoth and things are not going well. And General Rieeken finds that the Empire is not the only thing complicating his life. "The Black Sleep" by Carolyn Golledge. The Blood of Kali forced Indiana Jones' soul to flee its possessed body. When he woke up, he was in a galaxy far, far away. "Alyeska Wild Cards" by Maggie Nowakowska. Trapped in an avalanche shelter with a gang of belligerent miners and forced into a marathon sabacc game with Lando, Han suddenly finds his fortune changing. "Father and Son" by Z. P. Florian. What if Darth Vader had managed to put Luke into carbonite and spirit him away to train as a Dark Jedi? Much more by Bentrup, Cargill, Florian, Golledge, Hennig, Hines-Stroede, Nussman, Smith, Taero, Wells and Zahn. Color cover by Melanie Guttierrez. Other art by Cargill, Dani, Florian, Guttierrez, Lybarger, Smith, Stasulis, and other favorites. Nearly 400 pp. \$28.00 priority mail, \$35.00 overseas airmail. Checks or money orders payable to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill, Garland, TX 75043.

BELOW THE SURFACE #7. *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* zine. Stories by Smithson, Karmell, McCurry, Hackett, Owers, Chapple, Renner, and Wells. Art by Palmer, Wells and Chapple; special art portfolio by Humphrey. Cover by Chapple. Laser printed, photocopied, 180 pp., GBC bound. \$17.00 priority mail (insured), \$18.00 to Canada, \$21.00 UK,

small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

BELOW THE SURFACE #6. All *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* zine. Includes stories by Smithson, Ames, Owers, Karmell, Walsh, Chapple, and Klein; art by Chapple and Humphrey; special art portfolio by Walsh. Cover by Chapple. Laser printed, photocopied, 174 pp., GBC bound. \$17.00 priority mail (insured), \$18.00 to Canada, \$21.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510. **BELOW THE SURFACE #1-5** are also available for the above prices. SASE for detailed flyer.

BLUE HARVEST. A publication for followers of the SW Saga. First issue available August 1993. Accepting articles, fiction, opinions, and art from SW fans worldwide! Issue one includes Disney's Star Tours reviewed, trading card guide and review, editorials, fiction, original artwork and more! For submission, subscription or advertising rates, write to: Blue Harvest, c/o Mary Jo Fox, P. O. Box 215, Vienna, VA 22181, or James Teitlebaum, P. O. Box 138488, Chicago, IL 60613-8488.

BRIGHT CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE #3. Now available! 181 p., spiral bound. For info, SASE Ming Wathne, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110. BC#1 and #2 available in reprints.

CHRONICLES OF THE HOUSE OF ALDERAAN #3. The Empire may have fallen but Han Solo and the princess aren't exactly leading a quiet life together... During the Clone Wars, Princess Carla ignores a warning and interrupts an escape to buy "Milk for the Baby"; Lando Calrissian becomes embroiled in political intrigue when his pal Solo asks him to track down a woman who may have stolen an ancient relic from Alderaan; "Princess Leia Pays a Call" on her sister-in-law, and is amazed when her husband uses "The Old Jedi Mind Trick." There's much more in this biggest *Chronicles* yet! Stories by Denyse M. Bridger, Julie Gelbart, and Susan Deborah Smith. Illustrated by Julie Gelbart, J. M. McClure, Kathy Miller and Brandon Tucker. 160 pages; perfect bound; printed on recycled paper. \$16.00 US, \$18.00 Canada (US dollars); \$20.00 overseas (US dollars). Shipped priority mail within the US, air printed matter abroad. Checks payable to Susan Deborah Smith, Pisces Pig, Ltd., 3538 Mentone Avenue #3, Los Angeles, CA 90034-4820. Volume #2 still available at \$14.00;

\$16.00; \$18.00 respectively. SASE for info about reprints of #1.

CLOUD CITY: FREEZING CHAMBER 1. Here comes the volume that features over two years of fannish first quality activity from the first Italian SW club! Fiction, articles, cartoons and the most stunning artwork you're ever going to see gathered together in one volume and translated into English! Coor cover by Dianne Smith. \$15.00 Europe, \$18.00 overseas airmail. Make orders payable to: Fiorenzo Delle Rupi, Casella Postale 771 AA/PP., 06100 Perugia, Italy.

CROSSFIRE ZONE, a new, irreverent quarterly zine just for the fun of it. For more info, SASE Melanie Guttierrez, 6017 West End Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124, or Lorrie Cherry, 4137 Ames Blvd., Lot 83, Marerro, LA 70072-9998.

FORCE'S LIGHT #1. Re-released with 80 pages of new art and fiction. 150 pages. \$10 before Feb. 28, 1994. Contact Ed Schodde, P.O. Box 10142, Pittsburgh, PA 15232-0142.

FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW #5. The "romance" edition! He drew women like a magnet and Hanna Beru could not resist him. What dark forces plotted against them? Can Leia survive the desires of two men? What tragic secret is Han Solo hiding? Luke Skywalker must find the lost Jedi secrets - and his only link is a mysterious and desirable woman! The usual roundup of suspects, quality writing and fun! You'll love the color cover spoofing Johanna Lindsey! 200+ pages. \$17.00 US/FC; \$22.00 Europe. Checks payable to Carolyn Cooper, Whine Press, P. O. Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

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FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW #3. What monumental battle are the Rebels *losing* the day after the Death Star? What's General Solo's *son* up to with a heavy blaster and a bottle of Upland Reserves? Han

and Chewie with a steady, legal(?) job! What Naughty Bits of trouble is Hanna Beru in now? 146 pages. \$12.50 US/FC; \$17.50 Europe. Checks payable to Carolyn Cooper, Whine Press, P. O. Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW #2. How did Han lose his cookies? The real scoop behind the royal wedding? Is the honeymoon over? Will Beru make the worst dressed list? Plus much more art and fun. 185 pages. \$14.50 US/FC; \$19.50 Europe. Checks payable to Carolyn Cooper, Whine Press, P. O. Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

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IMPERIUM #3. Stories by Florian, Nowakowska, Wilson, others. Cover by Mark Fisher. 98 pp., spiral bound. \$13.00. Make checks payable to Kirk Taskila, but send c/o Arwen Rosenbaum, 605 West End Ave., New York, NY 10024.

IN A FARAWAY GALAXY: A LITERARY APPROACH TO A FILM SAGA. This is a 150 page trade paperback book by Doris Robin, Lee Vibber, Gracia Fay Ellwood. Part one includes detailed profiles of the main characters of the SW saga. Part two includes the essay, "Star Wars: The Shape of a Romance"--a must for SW fiction writers. A few copies of this rare 1984 publication are available for \$9.50 + postage, \$2.50 book rate, \$3.50 first class. Checks to ON THE MARK Publications, PO Box 5276, Orange, CA 92613-5276.

JANDRA. An independent story by Lucy Rhonur. 51 pages. SASE for info to Bantha Books, 1482 York Avenue, Suite 5D, New York, NY 10021.

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES. Indiana Jones letterzine now available. This is intended to be a simple no-frills letterzine with lots of lively discussion. In addition to the movie trilogy, I hope to see discussion of *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles* and the new series of novels and comic books. All letters, articles, zine reviews or classified ads can be submitted on IBM 5-1/4" disks in ASCII format. Published

quarterly. \$2.50 per issue (overseas add 50 cents extra for postage). Make all checks payable to Jeannie Webster, 416 E. 241st St., Woodlawn, Bronx, NY 10470.

ON THE MARK. Still available. Back issues of ON THE MARK: the 1982-1987 official fan club newsletter for Mark Hamill and Luke Skywalker fans. Each issue is 6-8 pages of news, photos, articles on Hamill and his career, and on SW, too. Offset printed, only \$1.50 each. Also: color photos of Mark Hamill, Luke Skywalker, Carrie Fisher, Harrison Ford, George Lucas and others, only \$2.00 each. Send SASE for lists to: Lisa Cowan, ON THE MARK, PO Box 5276, Orange, CA 92613-5276.

POWER STAR - The Imagination Anthology. Long-running monthly zine devoted to science fiction, fantasy and horror in all media. Seeking material--fiction and non-fiction, prose, poetry, and artwork--on all forms of fantastic media. Submission guidelines available on request. Issue #60 now available. \$5.00 per issue, \$7.50 in Canada and Mexico; \$10.00 for other foreign countries. U.S. funds only. Make checks or money orders payable to: Kimberly Murphy, 9740-E Covered Wagon Drive, Laurel, MD 20723-1512. Please enclose a SASE if requesting information.

REMOTE CONTROL #3 includes fiction by Knights (*Rat Patrol*), Gillilan (*Simon & Simon*), Florian (*SW*), Webster (*Indiana Jones*), DeVries (*Young Riders*), Lane (*Alien Nation*), Holt and Grigsby (*WOTW*), McCurry (*Buck Rogers*), Hicks (*UNCLE*), Paulson (*Real Ghostbusters*), Wilson (*Magnum*), Karmell (*Professionals*), Martin (*Hawaii 5-0*), Wells (*Wild, Wild West*). Poetry by Matoris and Batterby. Illustrations by Florian, Lane, Kirby, Larimer, and Glenn. Laser printed, photocopied, 218 pp., GBC bound. \$22.00 priority mail (insured), \$25.00 to Canada, \$30.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510. RC#1 (Fan Q and Star Awards winner) and #2 (Fan Q winner) are also available for the above prices. SASE for detailed flyer.

REPORT FROM THE SW GENERATION: Are you sick of those other fan rags? Do you crave meaning and identity in your life? Then become part of the SW Generation. Subscribe today! \$12.00 for four issues. Make checks payable to: High Drive Publications, Box 23, 2300 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

STARNODES. A collection of SW stories by Yvette Ghilan. Contents include "Shore Leave," "Destiny's Knell," "Meeting with an Old Man," "One Night on Endor," "Genesis," and "To Catch a Skywalker." Computer printed. Bound in cardboard covered with sturdy adhesive vinyl. Price, including postage (registered airmail): \$25.00. For details, write to: Yvette Ghilan, P.O. Box 1827, 57112 Ramat Gan, Israel.

STRANGE NEW WORLDS. The Marketplace for SF Enthusiasts and Collectors of the Fantastic. Published bi-monthly. Subscription rates: \$9.00 for 6 issues. For more info, SASE to P. O. Box 223, Tallevast, FL 34270-0223.

TALKING WITH... A FORUM FOR MEDIA FANS. A smaller format zine of commentary and issues. A place where fans can discuss all the many issues that arise in the worlds of fandom. Issues to be discussed include all aspects of cons, fanfic, zines, fan clubs, relationships, feminism... Hey, anything goes, folks! Do you have an insight or a gripe to share regarding any aspect of fandom or life in general? Put in the form of a LoC or an article and send it in. First issue will be released October 1993. SASE Julie Evans, 2112 Randolph Road #102, Silver Spring, MD 20902.

THE FARTHEST FRONTIER #1 includes Classic Trek stories from Baudoin, Graham, Lee, Sodaro, and Smithson; TNG fiction from Ames, Benoit, Chapple, Morris, and a novella by Cottrell; poems and filks by Bluebaum, Goldstein, McMillan and Stone. Cover by Myers, interior art by Hebert, Humphrey, and Kenealy; cartoons by Miles. Photocopied, GBC bound. \$22.00 priority mail (insured), \$25.00 to Canada, \$29.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

THE NEXUS CHRONICLES. A collection of all *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*-related fiction from the Nexus Cycle, exploring the development of the relationship between Chip Morton and Lynn Murtagh. Written by Kathryn Agel. \$10.00 in person, \$14.00 priority mail (insured), \$16.00 Canada (US funds only); \$19.00 UK. Make checks payable to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

UNEXPECTED ALLIANCES. A *Wizards and Warriors* zine by Susan Deborah Smith. No frills: \$9.00 US, \$10.00 Canada, \$12.00 overseas. Checks payable to Susan Deborah Smith, Pisces Pig, Ltd., 3538

Mentone Avenue #3, Los Angeles, CA 90034-4820.

VOICES. The collected SW poetry of Yvette Ghilan. 44 poems in the voices of Luke, Leia, Han, Obi-Wan, Darth Vader, the Emperor and "X", Luke and Leia's mother. Computer printed, bound in cardboard covered in sturdy adhesive vinyl. Price, including postage (registered airmail): \$15.00. For details, write to: Yvette Ghilan, P.O. Box 1827, 57112 Ramat Gan, Israel.

WE GOT ONE! The first issue of our *Real Ghostbusters* zine includes fiction by Paulson, Nickell, Beetem, Dickerson, Morris, Van Fossen, and Riddle. Illustrations by Riddle, Howarth, and Van Fossen. Special art portfolio by Schreiber. Cover by Walsh. Laser printed, photocopied, GBC bound. \$16.00 priority mail (insured), \$18.00 to Canada, \$20.00 UK, small parcel rate. Make checks payable to Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

COMING SOON TO A GALAXY NEAR YOU

ALLIANCE AND EMPIRE #2 is now open for submissions of fiction, poetry, filks, and art. Stories from all timeframes are encouraged, with G to R ratings. No slash or gratuitous violence will be accepted. Anticipated publication date March 1994. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

ANOTHER SKY... #6. Already almost half full. We're still looking for art, poetry, and fiction. Luke or original "people". No Han-starring, slash or profanity. SASE Lorrie Cherry, 4137 Ames Blvd., Lot 83, Marerro, LA 70072-9998.

A TREMOR IN THE FORCE #8. Featuring the return of Martie Benedict, back after an absence of over 5 years! Also material by Cat Anson, Catriona Campbell, Cheree Cargill, Yvette Ghilan, Carol Hines-Stroede, Marti Schuller, Jacqueline Taero, Veronica Wilson, and more of your favorite writers. Art by Catherine Churko, Gerald Crotty, Z. P. Florian, Wanda Lybarger, Melanie Guttierrez, Nancy Stasulis, Dianne Smith, and more! Still taking very small

submissions. SASE Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

BELOW THE SURFACE #8. *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* zine due out January 1994. Now soliciting fiction and artwork. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

BELOW THE SURFACE #9. *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* zine due out May 1994. Now soliciting fiction and artwork. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Ct, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

CHRONICLES OF THE HOUSE OF ALDERAAN #4 now open for submissions. SASE for detailed submission guidelines. Submission deadline: Oh, why not December 10, 1993? Susan Deborah Smith, Pisces Pig, Ltd., 3538 Mentone Avenue #3, Los Angeles, CA 90034-4820.

DO YOU CALL THIS ARCHAEOLOGY? First there was *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, followed closely by *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*, ending with the spectacular *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. Now you can see our dashing hero, Indiana Jones, growing up in *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*. This is a new fanzine for fans of this excellent show and is now looking for submissions, i.e., stories, artwork, poetry. The zine is looking for material based on Indy aged 8 (played by Corey Carrier), and especially stories based on 17 year old Indy (played by Sean Patrick Flanery). Will consider any material based on Harrison Ford's Indy. Not forgetting 90 year old Indy (played by George Hall). Let your mind travel the world, be Indy's travelling companion, and visit the seven wonders of the world! For further details and a writer's guideline, send an SAE and two IRC's plus all submissions to: Julie Phipps, 47 Cotswold Avenue, Duston, Northampton, NN5 6DP, England.

FIELD STUDIES #3. Stories by Cargill, Florian, Sleeman, Virgil, Webster and Weddell. Color cover by Wanda Lybarger. Interior art by Lybarger, Dani, Crotty, Martynn, Florian, and others. Available in January, 1994. Now taking orders. \$15.00 priority mail, \$20.00 overseas airmail. Please make checks payable to Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

FROM A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW #6. Once more into the breach! It's the "family values" issue.

I'm looking for some good stories and art dealing with our heroes and their childhoods, children, family relationships (maybe Han & Leia's wedding?), etc. As always, FACPOV prefers upbeat, positive pieces with our heroes as a prominent part, but I'll look at well-written dark drama. I'm shooting for a spring printing, so I'll try to be prompt with revision requests. SASE Carolyn Cooper, Whine Press, P. O. Box 66244, Houston, TX 77266.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS! A new SW zine with a mid-Atlantic flavor (hopefully!) is now open for submissions. Looking for fiction, articles, poetry, filks, art and misc. items. G to R rating. No slash/same sex. Already featuring Schuller, Florian, Dutech, Wilson, Campbell and Turner, plus some excellent new talent! Art by Crotty, Florian. New writers and artists welcome! (Hello, Europe, are you there?) Catriona Campbell/Louise Turner c/o 19 Eastern Crescent, Kilbirnie, Ayrshire KA25 6JH, Scotland.

JUNIOR'S PLAYGROUND. This is to be a one-shot zine devoted entirely to fan fiction based on *War of the Worlds*' second season. Because I am uncertain how great the response will be for this project, submission deadline is currently left open. Write for more details on what I'm looking for. This is to be an independent project. SASE Julie Evans, 2112 Randolph Rd #102, Silver Spring, MD 20902.

MY NAME AIN'T MARY SUE #3. The zine with a different perspective on the subject of original characters is currently seeking submissions of fiction, LoCs, artwork, and articles for its third issue. Tentative submission deadline for issue #3 is Nov. 30, 1993. If you've got a great story featuring a strong original character, then it's time you had a chance to tell it! Write for more info. SASE Julie Evans, 2112 Randolph Road #102, Silver Spring, MD 20902.

MY NAME AIN'T MARY SUE: SPECIAL GAY/LESBIAN ISSUE. We're currently seeking stories featuring gay and lesbian Mary Sues for a special one-time issue. Note: This is *not* a slash project! We are looking for the same kind of innovative and thought-provoking characters and plot-lines that are the standard for every issue of NMAMS. If you are interested in contributing, drop a line for further info. For now, deadline is open. SASE Julie Evans, 2112 Randolph Road #102, Silver Spring, MD 20902.

ONLY HOPE #1. New U.S./Canadian Luke zine for debut issue February, 1994. No Han starring, slash or cross-over. Fiction, art, poetry wanted. For info, SASE Tammy Olsen, Box 153, Benton Rd., N. Haverhill, NH 03744, or Cheryl DeLuca, 4181 Rockwood Road, Mississauga, Ontario L9W 1L6, Canada.

REMOTE CONTROL #4. Multi-media zine is now open for submissions of fiction, films, poetry and artwork. Publication date is May 1994. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

SCARECROW'S DREAM. Genzine dedicated to exploring the many characters played by Bob Dowdell. Now accepting submissions -- do you have a story from *Stoney Burke* that needs a home? How about a *240-Robert*, *The Initiation*, *Skin Deep* or *Terror in the Sky*? The only requirement is that the story center on the character Bob played in the movie or TV episode. No gratuitous sex and no "f" situations will be accepted. Anticipating publication in May 1994, in time for MWC 14. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

TATOOINE DREAMS. New Luke zine planned for Spring 1994. Needs submissions. Keep it clean, please. For info, SASE Kymm August, 42 Heron St., Long Beach, NY 11561.

TECHNOLOGICAL TERROR. A new zine from Lightspeed Press. The first electronic zine. Featuring "Rebirth", a comic by Jeff Smith. Stories by Linda Stoops and Jennie Jivan. Plus "SW-The Drinking Game", an interview with SW Echo moderator Skip Shayotovich, and reviews of upcoming novels and comics. Electronic version available on Macintosh computers (Apple II and IBM versions available). Mac version includes sound clips and animation. Available in printed version also, approximately 100 pgs. Tentative release date: December 1993. Submission deadline: December 1, 1993. Guidelines are simple-- You make it, we take it. For more info, SASE Charyl Perry, 1274 Berkeley Rd., Columbus, OH 43206-3220. Voice: (614) 258-0157; AOL: Hooks; GEnie: C.Perry3; Internet: hooks@aol.com; Prodigy: NBNK11A.

THE DARKEST SHADOW, BOOK I OF II. Kira Jo'hn, New Republic security advisor and last of the mysterious "Shadow Jedi", a splinter group of the Jedi brotherhood devoted to both the dark and the light

sides of the Force, is captured by an Imperial Admiral obsessed with restoring the Empire. With time running out, Luke Skywalker rushes to save Kira from the Admiral and the powerful grip of the Dark Side! This riveting, novel-length SW adventure by Jonathan Cephas, is due for release in the Winter of 1993. Write now for further info! SASE Julie Evans, 2112 Randolph Road #102, Silver Spring, MD 20902.

THE FARTHEST FRONTIER #4 is now open for submissions of Classic Trek pieces. Issue #5 is now open for submissions of TNG and DS9 material. Action stories as well as relationship pieces are welcome but no slash will be accepted. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

THE FORCE'S LIGHT #2. Open for submissions. Please send long SASE to Ed Schodde, P.O. Box 10142, Pittsburgh, PA 15232-0142.

THE ORMAND FACTOR. Volume One of a two-volume post-ROTJ novel by Louise Turner, illustrated by Gerald Crotty. As recommended by Campbell and Dutech in SE #34! Join Wedge Antilles and Luke Skywalker as they struggle against the remnants of the Imperial forces in a race to discover the truth behind old spacer's rumors of an alien power source in the Outer Rim. For a detailed plot synopsis and costs, please send an SAE/International Reply Coupon to: Louise Turner, 89 St. Andrews Drive, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, Scotland, PA11 3JD, Great Britain. Copies will be 180 pp. in length, laser-printed and photocopied, and spiral bound. Available from December 1993, with Volume Two to follow early in 1994.

THE REST OF THE GARBAGE. The X-Y-Z rated SW zine. Tentative publishing date May 1995. Plain brown wrapper over color cover, hopefully. No taboos whatsoever. Contributions wanted: adult, mature, hot, erotic, fascinating, anything goes as long as the characters are in character. Prefer short to medium stories. Erotic poems, drawings, cartoons welcome. I accept anonymous contributions from shy people. In case of pen names, original names kept confidential. Sex in the stories not mandatory, excessive trashing also fits the profile. Slash is ok. I'm especially interested in explorations into the sex life of the various species, the clash (or match) of different cultures. Floppies or hard copy accepted. SASE Z. P. Florian, 6214 Waterway, Falls Church, VA 22044.

WE GOT ANOTHER ONE! Now accepting submissions of fiction and artwork for second issue of *Real Ghostbusters* zine. Action-adventure as well as relationship pieces are suitable, but no slash will be accepted. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

WHO'S SCRUFFY LOOKIN'? is a new SW zine now looking for submissions. Stories, poetry and filks about Han Solo are being solicited. Stories may be set in any timeframe from pre-ANH to post-ROTJ. First draft submission deadline is November 1, 1993, with a MWC '94 publication date. SASE for information or submissions guidelines to Kathy Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

YEARS OF FIELDWORK. Now taking reservations (\$5.00 plus SASE) for this collection of Indiana Jones fiction from the "O.S.S." series by Jeannie Webster and Sally Smith. Anticipated publication date is early winter 1994. SASE for more information to Kathryn Agel, 9-11 Ayres Court, Bayonne, NJ 07002-3510.

OTHER WORLDS

ART PRINTS -- Full color prints of the covers of *A Tremor in the Force* #5 and #6. TF#5 -- Han and Leia (1990 Star Award/Best Cover Art) by Dianne Smith. TF#6 -- Luke by Melanie Guttierrez. Suitable for framing. \$2.50 each. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.

CORELLIAN ARCHIVES needs donations of out of print zines of all fandoms--*V*, *UNCLE*, *ST*, *Beauty and Beast*, multi-media, you name it. For info on how we operate, SASE Ming Wathne, Curator--Corellian Archives, 437 Via Roma, Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

DESERT STORM TROOPER BODY ARMOR plus dunes of hardware replicas from SW, ST, Galactica, Logan, Blade Runner, B7, Capt. Power, more. \$3.00 to Marco Ent., 293 Spruce, Anaheim, CA 92805.

IF YOU ARE A LOYAL SW FAN who owns a computer and modem, then you'll want to know about the SW Echo on the Fidonet computer network. Hundreds of people are already "online", including Tom Veitch, writer of *Dark Empire*, Bill Smith of West End

Games, Steven Sansweet, and more! The SW Echo is transmitted FREE to thousands of private BBS around the country. If you would like more information about the name of the BBS near you capable of carrying the SW Echo, you may contact me via e-mail at: Skip Shayotovich, The Records Dept., Pleasanton, CA, (510) 426-0470. You can also reach me direct at (510) 606-6408 (leave a message if I'm not there), or send a SASE to me at: 828 Olivina Ave. #7, Livermore, CA 94550.

NEW T-SHIRT DESIGN now available. Crouching wolf looking right at you, white ink on black shirts. Original art by Cheree Cargill. Sizes M-XXL. \$15.00 (\$16.00 XXL). Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Dr., Garland, TX 75043.

LUKE & LEIA T-SHIRTS. Double portrait in original art by Cheree Cargill. Black ink on cream, yellow or pale blue shirts. Available in L, XL and XXL sizes. \$12.50 FC (\$13.50 XXL sizes). Please state first and second color preferences. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill, Garland, TX 75043.

SOUTHERN ENCLAVE T-SHIRTS. Only one left: size Large, navy with design printed in white. First come, first serve. \$12.00 first class mail. Cheree Cargill, 457 Meadowhill Drive, Garland, TX 75043.



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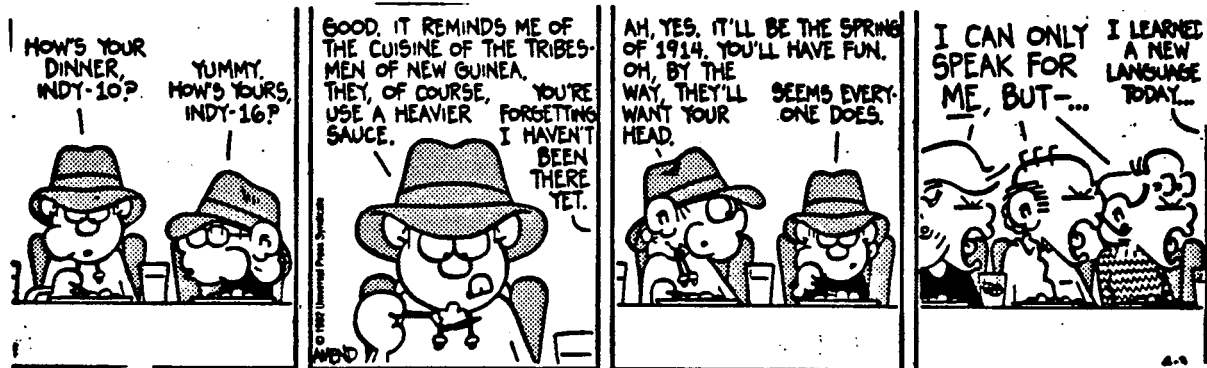
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...and over the Imperial City an energy storm rages and a hole with a worm emerges.



SOUTHERN ENCLAVE

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